AL.1.977
C.2

Legislative Assembly Office

07

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

AND 2007 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION ALBERTA BRANCH.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/annualreportalbe00albe_23

"THE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN WHICH WE WORK IS DYNAMIC AND CHALLENGING, BUT I AM ALWAYS PROUD OF THE ABILITY OF LAO STAFF TO DELIVER A HIGH QUALITY OF SUPPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA."

DR. DAVID McNEIL
CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

OUR MISSION

TO PROVIDE NONPARTISAN PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT TO THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AS THEY CARRY OUT THEIR ROLES AS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES.

OUR VISION

RESPECT	**TRADITION**
EXEMPLIFY	**SERVICE**
PROMOTE	**INNOVATION**

OUR VALUES

IMPARTIALITY	**INTEGRITY**	**IMPROVEMENT**

EMPLOYEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OFFICE (LAO) ARE PROUD TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF ALBERTA. WE ARE GUIDED IN OUR WORK AND CONDUCT BY A CORE SET OF PRINCIPLES THAT MOTIVATE US AS INDIVIDUALS AND REFLECT THE QUALITIES OF THE OFFICE AS A WHOLE.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

November 3, 2008

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta:

As required by Standing Orders, I am pleased to submit the 21st annual report of the Legislative Assembly Office. This report highlights the activities of the Legislative Assembly Office by focusing on four key areas of responsibility in which support was provided to Members during the calendar year ended December 31, 2007. Also presented within this report are the audited financial statements for the 2006-2007 fiscal year and the 11th annual report of the Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Another exciting and challenging year, 2007 brought with it a close to the 100 Years of Democracy celebrations and the introduction of four new legislative committees.

The four-volume *Centennial Series* was unveiled on May 30 in the Legislature Rotunda. I would like to thank the former Lieutenant Governors, Premiers and Speakers of Alberta's Legislative Assembly who were able to honour us with their presence. I am proud to announce that this historical set was distributed to various schools and libraries throughout the province.

I would also like to thank all Members and staff for their ability to step up to the challenge when four new policy field committees were introduced in the Assembly. A new initiative in Alberta, policy field committees allow the Assembly to bring issues out of the House and to Albertans.

I would also like to thank all MLAs for continuing to support the work of the Legislative Assembly Office and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Kowalski

The Honourable Ken Kowalski, MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

November 3, 2008

To the Honourable Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta:

I am honoured to present the 21st annual report of the Legislative Assembly Office and the 11th annual report of the Alberta Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). The Legislative Assembly Office report includes the audited financial statements reflecting the operation of the Legislative Assembly Office for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, and the Alberta Branch of the CPA report outlines the various developmental opportunities afforded Members who attended interparliamentary conferences.

Although the report focuses primarily on results-based reporting, events from the past year are also included.

The environment within which we work is dynamic and challenging, but I am always proud of the ability of LAO staff to deliver a high quality of support to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. W.J. David McNeil
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AN INTRODUCTION	1
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART	2
SERVICES	3
KEY RESPONSIBILITY AREAS	4 - 9
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS	10 - 16
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	17 - 24
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION - ALBERTA BRANCH	26 - 31
CONFERENCES	32 - 36
INTERPARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS	36 - 37
FORMER MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	38
SPECIAL EVENTS 2007	39 - 44

Photo (Top): His Honour the Honourable Norman Kwong, Lieutenant Governor and Premier Stelmach exit the Chamber following Royal Assent.

Photo (Left): The Legislature Pedway.

Photo (Right) The Legislature Dome peeks out from behind the Legislature Annex.

An Introduction

The origins of Alberta's Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) can be traced to 14th century England, when Parliament elected the first Speaker and appointed the first Clerk. Today the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is the head of the LAO, and the Clerk is the Speaker's deputy. The *Legislative Assembly Act* of 1983 made the LAO's current name official.

The most common misconception about the LAO is that it is a branch of government and that its staff are government employees. However, in the parliamentary system the government is the executive branch, responsible for applying and enforcing laws; the Legislative Assembly is the legislative branch, responsible for establishing those laws. The Legislative Assembly Office provides various types of support to the entire Assembly, both Members of government and opposition caucuses.

Although the LAO is sometimes called the Speaker's department, it is not a government department. The Speaker does not belong to the cabinet and cannot be asked questions during Oral Question Period or participate in the Assembly's debates. However, the Speaker does have administrative authority and responsibility similar to that of a minister of a government department. The Clerk is the Speaker's chief administrative deputy and has authority and responsibility similar to that of a deputy minister.

The Speaker has two distinct but related roles. In the Assembly the Speaker maintains order and ensures that Members of the Legislative Assembly conduct their business according to the Standing Orders of the Assembly.

Administratively the Speaker is responsible for the Assembly's records and for ensuring the provision of a range of services to Members and the public. This includes financial administration, human resource management, technological support, security, public education programming, purchasing, communications, library, legal and parliamentary services.

The LAO as a whole has the same procedural and administrative roles. This is a unique characteristic and is evident throughout the office, particularly during session, when the normal duties, work hours and office locations of many staff change significantly.

The LAO's annual budget as well as provisions for financial and human resource administration are under the purview of the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services. As an all-party committee of the Assembly the Members' Services Committee regulates constituency office support and Members' pay, allowances, benefits and group insurance plans, all of which the LAO administers. Traditionally the Speaker chairs the Members' Services Committee.

Each party of elected Members, or caucus, is a branch of the LAO. Although the Speaker technically has authority over the administration of each caucus office, for obvious reasons these branches operate with considerable autonomy. Therefore, the caucus branches are not part of this report; it includes only branches of the LAO under the Speaker's full control. However, since the caucuses receive financial, administrative, research and human resource services as well as other support from other branches of the LAO, this report does comment on those services. In addition, the office's consolidated budget estimates and audited financial statements, which appear at the end of this report, include caucus finances.

Legislative Assembly Office (LAO)

Organizational Chart

The Honourable Ken Kowalski
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Members' Services Committee

David McNeil
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Office of the Clerk
Management and Communications Services

Rhonda Sorensen
Manager
Communications Services

Louise Kamuchik
Clerk Assistant/Director of House Services

Micheline Gravel
Clerk of *Journals*/Table Research

Liz Sim
Managing Editor, *Hansard*

Shannon Dean
Senior Parliamentary Counsel
Legal Services

Rob Reynolds, QC
Senior Parliamentary Counsel
Legal Services

Brian Hodgson
Sergeant-at-Arms and Director, Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services

Diane Brayman
Manager, Visitor Services

Cheryl Scarlett
Director, Information Technology and Human Resource Services

Val Rutherford
Manager, IT Planning and Development

Jillian Tilley
Manager, IT Operations

Moyra Johnson
Manager, Human Resource Services

Scott Ellis
Director and Senior Financial Officer
Financial Management and Administrative Services

Jacqueline Breault
Manager, Corporate Services

Darren Joy
Manager, Financial Services

Dan Dunlop
Manager, Administrative Services

Sandra E. Perry
Legislature Librarian
Library Services

Valerie Footz
Manager, Library Operations

Services

Office of the Clerk

Responsible for processing the daily business of the House and providing management and communications support to all branches of the LAO.

The Clerk acts as a liaison at the deputy minister level with government departments and assists in co-ordinating Member participation in interparliamentary activities.

Financial Management and Administrative Services (FMAS)

Provides full accounting services such as budget preparation and monitoring, payment processing and financial reporting as well as administrative services, including equipment and supply procurement, telecommunications management, constituency office leasing and credit card administration. FMAS also handles the responsibilities under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and Records Management Guidelines for the LAO.

Human Resource Services (HRS)

Advises on employment and policy issues for the Speaker, Members, caucuses, constituencies and the LAO as well as manages the Legislative Assembly human resource and payroll system, including co-ordinating MLA and staff compensation plans and administering employee and service contracts. In addition, HRS oversees the recruitment and retention policies for nonpartisan positions, co-ordinates career counseling and learning and development programs, ensures safe work practices and promotes health and wellness initiatives.

Information Technology Services (ITS)

ITS is dedicated to providing all technology services to the Speaker, Members, caucuses and constituency offices.

ITS places a major emphasis on supporting the technology interdependencies between clients and ensures that the operation of all services, including network infrastructure, application development, hardware and software, is reliable and operational.

Legal Services – Parliamentary Counsel

Provide legal advice on a wide range of matters, including parliamentary procedure, and draft private Members' public bills and private bills. Both Senior Parliamentary Counsel serve as Table Officers in the House and advise the Speaker on points of order and questions of privilege.

Library Services

Offers information, news and reference and research services to the Members, their staff and policy field committees using current library and information technology. As well, Library Services provides training in the use of services that are delivered electronically to the Members' desktops.

House Services

Along with providing advice on parliamentary procedure, producing the Votes and Proceedings, Order Paper, the *Journal* and assisting in maintaining House records such as bills and motions, House Services provides all arrangements for the Assembly's standing, special standing and select special committee meetings and assists with expenses, budgets, historical records and transcripts relating to committees. In addition, the recording and publishing of print and electronic versions of *Alberta Hansard*, the official report of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and its committees, fall under the responsibility of House Services. This includes the administration of a subscription service to *Alberta Hansard*, Votes and Proceedings and bills and the printing and distribution of sessional publications. The *Hansard* staff in the House Services Branch also provide proofreading and editing services to other branches.

Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services (VCSS)

Plans and executes ceremonial and special events as well as the co-ordination of school and public outreach programs, tours of the facilities and delivery of educational and orientation materials. VCSS is also responsible for exhibits and the Legislature Assembly Gift Shop. Maintaining security in the Chamber and precincts, co-ordinating security for constituency offices and managing the Alberta Legislative Assembly Page program are also responsibilities of VCSS.

Photo: The Legislature Annex, situated on the north Legislature Grounds.

Key Responsibility Areas

YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

The Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) began 2007 by co-ordinating staff changes and office moves as a result of the leadership review in December 2006.

The new sitting of the Legislature brought temporary changes to the Standing Orders affecting the hours of House operation and establishing four new standing committees. Effects of the new committees were felt organization-wide as the necessary services to support the new committees were implemented.

As well, 100 Years of Democracy celebrations wrapped with the eagerly awaited unveiling in May of *The Centennial Series*, a four-volume set of Alberta legislative history produced in commemoration of the centennial of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. In addition, the Historical Vignette Collection was sent to production in late fall.

As the year came to a close, focus shifted to preparations in anticipation of an early 2008 election call.

AREA 1

Provision of Timely, Professional, Impartial, Accurate Information and Advice to Members

Information

Several documents and records were updated as a result of changes to the Standing Orders approved during the spring sitting. This includes the Standing Orders, Members' Guide and Consolidated Members' Services Orders and the Practical Guide to Committees, which was extensively rewritten by House Services. House Services also created spreadsheets to assist committee clerks with tracking Committee of Supply cycles. In addition, Parliamentary Counsel provided drafting and procedural support in the preparation of amendments to the Standing Orders and the Members' Services Committee Orders.

Various LAO documents and databases were also updated as a result of two June 2007 by-elections. As well, branches assisted constituency staff during the period of time where there were vacancies in the two electoral divisions and oriented the new Members' following the by-elections. Similarly, House Services and Parliamentary Counsel held an orientation for the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the four new standing committees.

In anticipation of a general election call, the Legislative Assembly Office updated the dissolution guidelines and forms and processes associated with dissolution and postelection activities. As well, various orientation materials were updated by Communications Services, and Library Services updated the electoral division information packages for each of the 83 constituencies.

With the assistance of Parliamentary Counsel standard constituency office lease agreements and lease amending agreements were updated by FMAS, who also updated the user guidelines to accompany Members' AMEX corporate credit cards and Expenditure Guidelines for Members of the Legislative Assembly.

House Services continued to meet and exceed all *Hansard* publication and delivery targets in 2007, including publishing on a substantially next-day basis the more than doubled committee workload over the previous year, some meetings of which were held in out-of-town locations. Over 700 speech reprints for Members were produced in paper, electronic and audio format.

»

Photo: The Centennial Series displayed in the Legislature Library

The library collection as a whole grew by approximately 2 per cent, which included subscriptions to 18 new periodical and newspaper titles. In addition, the Alberta Electronic Government Documents Archive was expanded to include 3,280 documents, a 24 per cent increase over the previous year.

Bibliographies on topics such as affordable housing, aging workforce, committees, ethics, growth pressures, immigration, legislative process and procedures, nuclear energy, royalties, sustainable and renewable resources and traffic safety were prepared by Library Services before session.

In addition, Library Services continued microfilming weekly newspapers and compiling New Books in the Library (NBIL), Selected Periodical Articles in the Library (SPAL), Ministers and Critics and Canadian Legislation alerting services.

Advice

Human Resource Services (HRS) conferred with Members on pay and benefits adjustments following the cabinet shuffle. Following further implementation of the constituency compensation plan, HRS advised Members regarding employee compensation issues and options on transition to the new system. HRS also advised Members in carrying out their supervisory role on issues relating to performance management, employee development, employee relations and contract administration.

In addition to providing advice via telephone and e-mail, the Sergeant-at-Arms or the Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms personally visited 33 constituency offices to offer advice on constituency office safety as well as personal safety.

FMAS provided advice regarding changes to Members' Services Committee orders affecting Members' allowances and entitlements as well as provided advice to Members and constituency staff on Member/constituency websites and drafted guidelines for Member/constituency websites with the assistance of LAO management. Additionally, FMAS provided advice on best practices for Members' records organization and disposition and assisted with disposition of Members' records as requested. FMAS also liaised with legislative offices staff regarding budget and reporting practices and other common financial issues.

Communications Services provided communications planning and counsel as well as media relations and advertising expertise to legislative committees in support of public consultation initiatives. New websites were built for all committees.

Parliamentary Counsel responded to questions from Members, caucus and constituency office staff on a variety of legal and procedural issues and presented briefings to constituency office and caucus staff on procedural matters and legal issues. Together with House Services, Parliamentary Counsel continued to provide procedural advice, guidance and research to the Speaker and Members of the Assembly and to fulfill their roles as Table Officers.

AREA 2

Provision of Services, Equipment, Supplies and Facilities on a Timely Basis

Online Services

The Legislative Assembly's internal website, OurHouse, was redeveloped and redesigned using Microsoft SharePoint platform to assist in delivering collaborative resources to LAO employees in a user-friendly format. Management and staff from various branches as well as constituency and caucus offices participated in test groups and consultation meetings for the rebuild. The project was the result of collaboration between Information Technology Services (ITS) and Communications Services.

ITS and House Services joined forces to extend online audiostreaming capability to webcast legislative committee activity. The second phase of this project saw access to the web streaming of Assembly proceedings and committee activity made easier with a redesign on the Legislative Assembly website. The new format displays information in a calendar, allowing easy access to both current and past events. This redesign was the result of collaboration between Communications Services and ITS.

HRS co-ordinated the redesign and rewrite of the Jobs section of the Legislative Assembly website. As well, HRS noticed an increase in course registrations following efforts to improve online access to career supports and learning and development opportunities.

FMAS completed drafting a strategic plan for the LAO's information and records management (IRM) program, recruited an IRM advisor, began work with Communications Services on an IRM communications strategy, which included developing a subsite on OurHouse, and began the LAO's records classification project.

FMAS participated in the improvement, testing and implementation of a new version of the online ordering system for overprinted materials by Members, caucus, branch and constituency staff.

Library Services enchanced its collection of databases to include Business Source Complete and Canada Info Desk as well as added to its Conference Board of Canada subscriptions to include Canadian Industrial Trends: Natural Gas and Canadian Industrial Trends: Crude Oil Services. As well, the digitization of Scrapbook *Hansard* continued and currently the digital collection comprises 6,626 newspaper articles spanning 21 years of Alberta's legislative history.

Facilities

Access to emergency equipment and services was enhanced as, in partnership with Infrastructure and Transportation, the LAO installed automated external defibrillators (AEDs) throughout the Legislature Building and Annex. These units are fully automated and are intended for use by individuals with or without training in the event of an on-site cardiac emergency.

»

Basic first aid kits were installed in various common areas of the Legislature Annex as well as in the Visitor Services office. First aid kits were also provided to each constituency office and to each MLA for use in his/her vehicle, and first aid training was co-ordinated for staff.

The Legislative Assembly security staff provided security services to all standing committees, screening visitors and ensuring the safety and security of all committee members, staff, media and others who were in attendance.

The Legislative Assembly Security Services acquired a new province-wide communications system for first responders (police, fire, EMS, et cetera) set to go into service in 2009. As well, the office of the SAA continued to co-ordinate the maintenance of all alarm systems in the 83-plus constituency offices.

Communications Services wrote a strategic communications plan for the Pandemic Planning Committee to supplement the LAO's pandemic plan. Representatives of various branches are on the committee, which is chaired by the Sergeant-at-Arms/Director of VCSS.

The SAA/Director of VCSS continued to serve on the Security Co-ordination Committee to discuss and co-ordinate security issues relating to the Legislature Building and surrounding areas. This committee is comprised of security stakeholders drawn from the LAO, Alberta Solicitor General and Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation.

VCSS provided security for Members and the nearly 13,000 spectators that were seated in the galleries during the 2007 session. As well, VCSS assisted with the co-ordination of four model parliaments and other events held in the Chamber and within the precincts of the Legislature.

With the assistance of Communications Services VCSS produced new promotional materials for the Gift Shop, including shopping bags, gift certificates and envelopes. Visitor Services also assisted with site preparations for Legislative Assembly and department functions hosted in the Interpretive Centre, pedway and Legislature Grounds.

General Services

House Services continued to provide administrative and procedural support to legislative committees, including the four new standing committees established during the spring sitting. In response to the increased workload House Services modernized its committee processes to increase efficiency. This included moving to paperless, web-based committee documentation for reports, submissions, news releases, agendas and notices for both internal and external users.

The 11-Member all-party Select Special Personal Information Protection Act Review Committee that was established during the 2006 spring session tabled its final report on November 14, 2007.

As a result of the expanded mandate of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, House Services provided support for 23 meetings, almost double the usual 12. As well, several meetings took place outside of session. Support was also provided by House Services to the committee's research subcommittee. Extensive liaison with regional health authorities and advanced education institutions enabled the committee to function effectively.

In its support of the new standing committees Library Services produced 46 research documents, including briefings, research papers and cross-jurisdictional comparisons. Additionally, Library Services completed summaries of written and oral submissions and assisted in the drafting of three final reports. Library Services also prepared 12 documents for the Public Accounts Committee.

Legislative committees continued to receive support in the areas of legal and procedural guidance from Parliamentary Counsel, communications expertise with regard to planning, advertising and media relations from Communications Services and security support from VCSS.

In addition to preparing the annual financial statements and assisting auditors with information in the course of the audit, FMAS staff prepared information and liaised with staff from the office of the Auditor General on a special Members' entitlements audit.

Parliamentary Counsel continued to provide legal drafting services in the preparation of private Members' public bills (16 introduced), private bills (two introduced), and reviewed amendments, private members' motions, motions for returns, written questions and petitions as well as a wide array of contracts/agreements: licensing, leases, employment and fee-for-service contracts and other service arrangements.

In addition, Parliamentary Counsel organized seminars for Members on the duties of notaries public and commissioners for oaths with the Department of Justice and prepared the annual list of required tablings and circulated it to all Members, officers of the Legislature and senior officials throughout government prior to session.

Speech writing services for various Legislative Assembly functions and ceremonies were provided by Communications Services and the Sergeant-at-Arms' office.

Throughout the year Communications Services worked on 552 projects in support of various LAO initiatives. In addition, a new visual identity was developed for the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Guidelines directing usage of the new identity were drafted, and both the guidelines and visual identity were made available online. Following the development of the visual identity, various publications were updated.

House Services continued to support other branches by providing proofreading services for documents, including private members' bills, Standing Orders and other publications produced by the LAO.

The Alberta Electronic Government Documents Archive, developed and

»

maintained by Library Services, expanded to include 3,280 documents, increasing the size of this collection by 24 per cent over the previous year.

The Library's Profiles service provides e-mail updates of newspaper and periodical articles to Members and LAO staff who are following particular issues. This year 18 different topics of interest were monitored.

Equipment and Supplies

Information Technology Services (ITS) in collaboration with House Services implemented a new digital audio recording and transcription system for transcribing House proceedings and both on-site and off-site committee meetings. This new system lays the groundwork for future audio and video enhancements.

In another collaborative effort, ITS and House Services developed a web-based program containing all Speakers' rulings and a subject index to the rulings. Future plans include making the program searchable, a valuable resource for Table Officers. Additionally, with the assistance of ITS, House Services also improved the functionality of the bills and amendments application by adding subamendment tracking and reporting. House Services also streamlined the publishing of bound volumes of committee transcripts by switching to an electronic process.

Subsequent to the summer 2007 cabinet shuffle FMAS assisted with budget adjustments, set-up and reconfiguration of telecommunications services for Members and staff, provision or moves of Members' furniture, liaised with Service Alberta for the updating of Members' telephone directory listings and assisted in procuring new, overprinted stationery.

ITS co-ordinated the installation of new multifunction devices capable of colour printing, scanning, faxing and photocopying. Also, in an effort to improve security of LAO equipment and data, ITS implemented a series of hardware, software and policy initiatives. ITS also acquired equipment and established protocols for working remotely. Wireless access, laptops and security provisioning have been deployed to MLAs and key stakeholders within the LAO.

FMAS maintained constituency office furniture following the upgrade project and planned and implemented the third phase of the Members' Legislature office furniture upgrade project. Additionally, in conjunction with ITS, FMAS developed a data capture system to assist in the valuation of assets.

ITS helped establish access to purchasing plans offering reduced rates on software used at the office for Members and staff, and in conjunction with FMAS and HRS updated the financial and payroll application process and deployed new cheque printing processes.

AREA 3

Provision of an Effective Workplace to Support Members

HRS initiated a review of the Legislative Assembly business intelligence components of the payroll system to streamline reporting and access to information on the system. This review is expected to progress over the course of the next two to three years.

It was a busy year for recruiting, with an over 800 per cent increase in the number of resumés received and reviewed. The response rate increase was due in part to targeted recruitment efforts and marketing the LAO as a desirable public service employer. Similarly, HRS enhanced the employee orientation program and developed a Legislature Page orientation program. Further efforts regarding employment included marketing internal career opportunities as a means to further develop staff and encourage career paths within the LAO, which resulted in promotions for seven employees.

As well, following the success of a pilot program in 2006, a revised performance management system emphasizing individual achievements and a commitment to formal learning plans was rolled out to remaining branches by HRS. In response to Alberta's current low unemployment/highly competitive labour market, classification reviews were conducted on both an individual and a branch basis to ensure that the skills and abilities required to perform specialized jobs are recognized.

Effective January 1, 2007, the Members' Services Committee approved learning and wellness accounts for Members and employees of the LAO. Within the first month 12 staff information sessions were conducted, and 486 claims were processed in the first fiscal year of the program.

The new Employee Family Assistance Program (EFAP), provided through the public service, was introduced to staff as a confidential service designed to assist employees and their immediate family who experience personal problems and require private counselling. The employee assistance and recovery program (EARP) supported employees on extended absences from work and co-ordinated successful return-to-work programs when employees were ready to return.

Safety

A significant step towards workplace health and safety, the Legislative Assembly of Alberta Health & Safety Guide was developed. This guide is an amalgamation of information initially developed for the web and provides easy access to safety tips, ergonomic solutions, wellness and emergency preparedness information for Members and staff of the LAO. The guide was produced by HRS in co-operation with Communications Services.

In addition, ergonomic orientations and workstation assessments were conducted by HRS in an effort to prevent workplace injury, and the immunization program and floor warden systems, including evacuation drills, were maintained.

»

VCSS in co-operation with HRS arranged for all Legislative Assembly Security Services staff to be recertified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) and trained in basic defensive tactics as part of a two-day training course.

AREA 4

Provision of Support to Maintain and Develop the Parliamentary System in Alberta

Parliamentary Counsel monitored national and international legal actions that affected the rights and immunities of Members and defended the interests of the Assembly when required. In co-operation with House Services Parliamentary Counsel continued participation as the Alberta correspondent for the *Table Review*, a parliamentary publication.

The Sergeant-at-Arms (SAA) gave advice to the office of the Lieutenant Governor on matters relating to protocol.

Communications Services continued to oversee the television broadcasting of Assembly proceedings and worked with other branches of the LAO toward future developments and needs assessment.

House Services assisted in planning the business agenda of the annual conference of the Hansard Association of Canada and delivered a presentation on Alberta's in-house project to digitize back issues of *Hansard* transcripts.

The Clerk Assistant/Director of House Services continued to act as administrative secretary to the Alberta branch of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF) and worked with Communications Services to invite submissions from Alberta artists for the production of a gift to be presented to the Quebec National Assembly in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the city of Quebec in 2008.

In addition, the LAO assisted in the recruitment of House of Commons pages by conducting interviews with applicants from across Alberta.

Educational Outreach/ Programming

In partnership with Alberta Education phase 2 of the Virtual Visit was developed.

VCSS continued to co-ordinate tours of the Legislature and precincts as well as provide support to all Legislative Assembly events. In support of the educational programs offered by the Legislative Assembly, VCSS formed a provincial Education Advisory Committee (EAC) of teachers and consultants at all levels for the purpose of meeting biannually to review Visitor Services' school programming and offer recommendations. VCSS increased contact with various tourism agencies in Alberta and Canada.

The LAO continued to bring together Members and students in meaningful and educational ways through the School at the Legislature program, which hosted 34 classes with a total of 828 students, and Mr. Speaker's MLA for a Day program, which was attended by 65 high school students from across the province. More on this and other events in the events section.

VCSS had a number of displays produced featuring the variety of programs and services offered by the Legislative Assembly to be showcased in the Legislature pedway.

On May 31, 2007, the Legislature Library hosted a formal presentation of the book *Fuelling Progress: A History of the Canadian Gas Association* to Speaker Kowalski by ATCO Gas President Jerome Engler and Canadian Gas Association chief executive officer Michael Cleland. The book examines the first 100 years of the Canadian Gas Association and covers the history of the gas industry and Canadian energy policy.

Community Initiatives

VCSS co-ordinated travelling exhibits in the pedway and Interpretive Centre: From the Ground Up, Then and Now, Icons of George Weber and Princess Louise - A Woman of Substance. VCSS contracted a comprehensive five-month visitor survey over the heavy tourism season, and the responses indicated a 97 per cent visitor satisfaction rate. Further to this, VCSS was a finalist for the prestigious ALTO Award for Service Excellence, an annual award presented by Travel Alberta. In addition, VCSS attended various teachers' conventions and conferences, including the Alberta Teachers' Association social studies

conference, to promote the educational programs offered by the Legislative Assembly. VCSS welcomed teachers from regional teachers' conventions and from the summer institute for social studies teachers for special tours and presentations in the Chamber.

The LAO once again organized events and initiatives to raise funds in support of the United Way. The creative efforts of the volunteer staff earned a bronze citation.

Library Services provided a series of orientation sessions to the press gallery staff, postsecondary and graduate students of library studies as well as to employees from the Auditor General's office and ATCO. Parliamentary Counsel also accepted speaking engagements with postsecondary institutions.

Associations

The LAO is actively involved in national and international associations that not only support and maintain the parliamentary system in Alberta but provide the opportunity for skill development and networking as well.

The Alberta/National Conference of State Legislatures Energy Symposium was held in Edmonton. Various branches, including House Services, the office of the Clerk and Communications Services, worked with the Office of the Speaker to ensure the conference was a success.

Publications/Educational Materials

The Historical Vignette Collection was completed. This publication commemorates the centennial of the province, 2005, and the Legislative Assembly of Alberta's 100 Years of Democracy, 2006, through a compilation of vignettes delivered to the House. This project was spearheaded by the Speaker's Office and produced by the Office of the Clerk and Communications Services in conjunction with House Services and the Legislature Library.

Library Services in conjunction with Communications Services completed the production of *The Centennial Series*, a four-volume set commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta in 2006, and co-ordinated an unveiling ceremony with the assistance of House Services and VCSS.

VCSS worked with Library Services, House Services and Communications Services on a review and update of *The Citizen's Guide to the Alberta Legislature* and on a brochure for the Legislature Grounds tour.

Photo: The entrance to Alberta's Legislature Building caught in the glow of twilight.

Hansard

ASSEMBLY STATISTICS	2007	2006	2005
Hours of session	362:08	266:13	283:51
Hansard pages	2,518	1,844	2,044
Number of words transcribed	2,917,164	2,070,930	2,285,010
TOTAL *HANSARD* AND COMMITTEE TRANSCRIPT PAGES	3,722	2,208	2,604
TOTAL SESSION AND COMMITTEE MEETING HOURS	537:31	310:14	353:58
TOTAL NUMBER OF WORDS TRANSCRIBED	4,133,217	n/a	n/a
SPEECH REPRODUCTIONS			
Paper	678	529	412
Audio	20	35	50
USERS OF *HANSARD* DISPLAY IN VISITOR SERVICES INTERPRETIVE CENTRE			
Number of quizzes taken	529	461	661
Number of transcriptions done	295	476	667
***HANSARD* INDEX AND ONLINE INQUIRIES**	31	29	n/a

Comparative Statistics

Photo: Legislature Librarian Sandra Perry thanks the library staff and other branches during *The Centennial Series* unveiling on May 30.

Photo: Deputy Speaker Richard Marz in the Legislature Chamber with students participating as part of Mr. Speaker's MLA for a Day program held April 30 to May 1, 2007

House Services

	2007 Third Session 26th Legislature	2006 Second Session 26th Legislature	2005 First Session 26th Legislature
SITTING DAYS (HOURS)			
Spring	45 (251)	42 (240)	42 (233)
Summer/Fall	17 (110)	5 (27)	11 (60)
EVENING SITTINGS (HOURS)			
Spring	10 (35)	28 (85)	28 (75)
Summer/Fall	2 (35)	3 (8)	8 (20)
GOVERNMENT BILLS			
Introduced	56	44	58
Received Royal Assent	55	42	58
PRIVATE BILLS			
Introduced	2	4	4
Received Royal Assent	0	3	4
PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS			
Introduced	16	13	13
Received Royal Assent	2	1	2
GOVERNMENT MOTIONS			
Debated	39	26	26
Agreed to	38	25	25
Withdrawn	0	0	0
PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS			
Placed on Order Paper	67	75	79
Agreed to	8	7	5
Defeated	6	4	6
Withdrawn	0	0	0
WRITTEN QUESTIONS			
Placed on Order Paper	18	35	45
Accepted	15	24	29
Rejected	1	11	12
Withdrawn	0	0	0
Removed from Order Paper	0	0	1

House Services
Continued

	2007 Third Session 26th Legislature	2006 Second Session 26th Legislature	2005 First Session 26th Legislature
MOTIONS FOR RETURNS			
Placed on Order Paper	12	36	50
Accepted	2	7	32
Rejected	6	22	17
Withdrawn	0	0	1
COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY (DAYS)			
Main Estimates	13	24	24
Supplementary	2	4	5
Interim	2	2	1
TABLINGS	1126	737	827
PETITIONS PRESENTED (EXCLUDING PRIVATE BILLS)	131	112	115
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	363	267	236
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	10	6	7
PAGES PUBLISHED			
Journals	752	608	627
Votes and Proceedings	481	372	397
Order Paper	498	410	478

Comparative Statistics

Photo (Left): Snow envelops the Legislature on a crisp winter day.

Photo (Right): Tour guides engage Alberta's youth in fun and educational games as part of School at the Legislature.

Photo: The Legislature Building boasts intricate marble detailing throughout.

Comparative Statistics

FMAS	2007	2006	2005
ADMINISTRATIVE			
Constituency offices, moved	2	2	7
Constituency offices, new	1	0	5
Constituency offices, closed	0	0	0
Leases processed (new or renewals)	10	11	30
Telecommunications services installed or moved	3	2	17
Telecommunications - service requests	176	214	190
Direct purchase orders issued	72	120	148
MLA purchase orders processed	6,025	5,675	5,075
Other requests processed	3,102	4,003	3,968
Special requests processed	329	346	370
Supplies orders processed - online ordering system	721	899	845
Supplies orders processed - manual	80	213	282
FINANCIAL*			
Invoices coded and data entered	17,649	15,869	15,869
Payments issued	11,738	12,057	9,982
INFORMATION AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT**			
Boxed records for storage - constituency/MLA	0	35	n/a
Boxed records for approved disposition - constituency/ MLA	52	86	n/a
Boxed records for storage - LAO	0	15	n/a
Boxed records for approved disposition - LAO	125	119	n/a
Boxed records for approved disposition - Other	812	0	n/a

*Note: Financial statistics are now based on the fiscal year 2007, which is April 1, 2006, to March 31, 2007.

**This is the first appearance of activity statistics for the Information and Records Management program.

Comparative Statistics

Library Services

	2007	2006	2005
Total number of volumes in collection	432,466	424,229	413,940
Items borrowed for use outside the library	4,184	6,794	8,657
Items used on-site	4,488	6,105	5,407
Number of sessional papers added to the collection	1,126	737	827
Number of requests requiring less than 15 minutes to complete	2,516	2,445	3,015
Number of requests requiring 15 minutes to one hour to complete	728	719	859
Number of requests requiring more than one hour to complete	230	245	303
MLA/LAO usage of the library's intranet site*	160,183	144,462	n/a
Number of times the online catalogue was accessed remotely	235,982	122,823	193,002
Number of interlibrary loan requests from Members and staff	845	845	1,258**

* In previous annual reports, only the number of hits on the main Library page was reported. This category now reflects the number of user sessions on the entire Library's intranet site to present a more accurate reflection of the usage of the site.

** A large proportion of the increase in Member and staff interlibrary loan requests during 2005 can be attributed to the material obtained by staff for research purposes for *The Centennial Series* project.

Photo (Top): From left to right - Bridget A. Pastoor, MLA for Lethbridge-East; Mary Anne Jablonski, MLA for Red Deer-North; Hon. Iris Evans, MLA for Sherwood Park, Minister of Employment, Immigration and Industry; Author Debbie Marshall, Cindy Ady, MLA for Calgary-Shaw; Laurie Blakeman, MLA for Edmonton-Centre; Alana DeLong, MLA for Calgary-Bow; Pearl Calahasen, MLA for Lesser Slave Lake; Hon. Janice Tarchuk, MLA for Banff-Cochrane, Minister of Children's Services; Weslyn Mather, MLA for Edmonton-Mill Woods; and the Ladies of the Legion pose with a painting of Roberta MacAdams at the launch of Debbie Marshall's book entitled *Give Your Other Vote to the Sister, A Woman's Journey Into the Great War.* The book is inspired by the life of former Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta Roberta MacAdams.

Photo (Right): The Royal Canadian Artillery Band performs in the Rotunda as part of the Opening Day ceremonies.

Human Resource Services

	2007	2006	2005
COMPENSATION			
Commencements processed	259	227	n/a
Terminations processed	140	145	n/a
CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION			
New contracts	138	139	n/a
Amendments	354	n/a	n/a
PAYROLL			
Cheques/direct deposits prepared	12,226	n/a	n/a
3rd party/pension remittances	337	n/a	n/a
RECRUITMENT			
Competitions	32	9	16
Number of resumés screened	1,494	181	459
Interviews for the Page program	31	31	20
Interviews for House of Commons Page program	5	7	11
ORIENTATION			
New employee orientation program participants	29	20	11
Page orientation participants	7	n/a	n/a
LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT			
Training opportunities co-ordinated for employees	58	36	70
Training and development consultations with employees	16	n/a	n/a
HEALTH AND SAFETY			
First aid training participants	34	51	36
Ergonomic orientations/assessments	15	38	18
Flu shot clinic participants	196 (3 clinics)	176	203
Employee recovery and assistance program	17	9	5

ITS

	2007	2006	2005
EQUIPMENT IN PLACE			
Constituency workstations	170	183	181
Constituency printers	111	162	159
LAN workstations	219	269	266
LAN laser printers	61	52	50
Servers	35	30	28
Laptop computers	190	225	226
PDAs (BlackBerry)	125	96	n/a
TRAINING			
Training days	132	91	35
Regular training	114	65	20
ITS staff technical training	18	26	15

* PDA numbers are not available previous to 2006.

Comparative Statistics

VCSS

VISITORS ON TOUR	2007	2006	2005
ESL tour	1,890	1,859	1,984
Legislature tour	4,312	4,608	4,249
PSO tour	755	987	516
SATL tour	828	842	853
School tour	23,114	18,475	21,143
Senior tour	656	578	1,168
Tour operator tour	394	890	981
VIP tour	341	546	218
Walk-in tour	15,933	16,186	15,762
TOTAL VISITORS ON TOUR	**48,223**	**44,971**	**46,874**
Non tour visitors	28,683	30,451	31,599
Educational programs	589	489	390
Special events*	59,005	77,003	86,827
Gallery seats reserved (visitors to session)	12,583	7,895	9,272
TOTAL VISITORS TO THE LEGISLATURE*	***149,952**	**160,320**	**176,096**
GIFT SHOP SALES (PUBLIC)	$108,248	$97,919	$127,898
MLA SALES	$358,937	$385,500	$449,857

* The decrease in total visitation is primarily due to two factors involving special events:
- VCSS did not participate in Premier's Breakfast 2007 (over 7,000 visitors)
- Celebrate the Season began one week later than in previous years, and the lights were on for reduced hours. (4,000 visitors per week) This accounts for over 11,000 fewer visitors in the figures shown.

Financial Statements

AS AT MARCH 31, 2007

Auditor's Report

Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Statement of Operations

Statement of Cash Flows

Notes to the Financial Statements

Schedule 1 – Expenses Detailed by Object

Schedule 2 – Salary and Benefits Disclosure

Photo: Terry Stokes poses in front of his Historica Fair project in the Legislature Rotunda. Terry received an award from the Legislative Assembly for his project, which represented a love of Alberta's parliamentary history.

AUDITOR GENERAL *Alberta*

Auditor's Report

To the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

I have audited the statement of financial position of the Legislative Assembly Office as at March 31, 2007 and the statements of changes in net assets, operations, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Office's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Office as at March 31, 2007 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

FCA
Auditor General

Edmonton, Alberta
June 27 , 2007

The official version of the Report of the Auditor General, and the information the report covers, is in printed form.

Statement of Financial Position

as at March 31, 2007

	2007	2006
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	$ 24,423,218	$ 23,682,721
Accounts receivable and advances	392,826	349,582
Inventory held for resale	234,788	219,953
	$ 25,050,832	**$ 24,252,256**
Capital assets (Note 4)	1,968,308	1,861,261
	$ 27,019,140	$ 26,113,517
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 2,430,053	$ 2,021,217
Vacation pay liability	991,000	935,712
	3,421,053	2,956,929
Members' transition allowance liability (Note 6)	18,568,977	16,850,158
Net assets	5,029,110	6,306,430
	$ 27,019,140	$ 26,113,517

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended March 31, 2007

	2007	2006
Net assets at beginning of year	$ 6,306,430	$ 1,851,626
Net operating results	(40,190,885)	(37,870,197)
Net transfer from general revenues	38,913,565	42,325,001
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	**$ 5,029,110**	**$ 6,306,430**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Operations

For the Year Ended March 31, 2007

	2007		2006
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
Revenues	(Note 8)		
Gift shop sales, services and fees	$ 434,000	$ 480,743	$ 623,105
Other	-	184,986	73,235
Contribution from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation for accommodations costs provided at no charge (Note 5)	-	748,593	875,312
Transfer from Alberta Gaming Lottery Fund	-	-	415,000
	$ 434,000	$1,414,322	$1,986,652
EXPENSES			
Voted:			
Alberta Alliance Opposition Services	60,000	86,800	83,208
Financial Management and Administrative Services	956,000	917,822	800,562
Government Members' Services	2,220,000	1,821,386	1,848,537
House Services	6,233,000	5,427,959	5,788,147
Human Resource Services	969,000	1,006,303	828,861
Independent Members' Services - Dr. Oberg, MLA	-	20,123	-
Independent Members' Services - Mr. Backs, MLA	-	26,007	-
Information Technology Services	3,077,000	2,694,366	2,415,868
Legislative Committees	371,000	204,613	247,524
Legislature Library	2,201,000	2,156,043	1,821,119
MLA Administration	27,501,000	25,176,057	24,098,506
New Democrat Opposition Services	447,000	483,512	475,358
Office of the Speaker	462,000	461,588	412,451
Official Opposition Services	1,439,000	1,459,286	1,435,670
	$ 45,936,000	$ 41,941,865	$ 40,255,811
VALUATION ADJUSTMENTS			
Accommodation costs (Note 5)		748,593	875,312
Capitalization of assets expensed as supplies (Note 3b)		(1,225,050)	(1,199,340)
Amortization of capital assets		1,118,003	1,032,410
(Reduction in) Members' transition allowance liability (Note 6)		(1,018,657)	(1,374,771)
Provision for vacation pay liability		55,288	164,264
Assets expensed as payments		-	74,788
Net consumption of inventory		(14,835)	30,926
Provision for doubtful accounts receivable		-	(2,551)
		(336,658)	(398,962)
		41,605,207	39,856,849
Net operating results		$ (40,190,885)	$ (37,870,197)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended March 31, 2007

	2007	2006
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Net operating results	$ (40,190,885)	$ (37,870,197)
Add noncash charges:		
Amortization of capital assets	1,118,003	1,032,410
Increase in vacation pay liability	55,288	164,264
Decrease (increase) in prepaid expense payment	-	74,788
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable and advances	(43,244)	178,671
Decrease in inventory held for resale	(14,835)	30,926
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	408,836	(95,370)
Increase in transition allowance liability	1,718,819	2,161,524
CASH APPLIED TO OPERATING TRANSACTIONS	**$ (36,948,018)**	**$ (34,322,984)**
Investing transactions:		
Acquisition of capital assets	(1,225,050)	(1,199,340)
Financing transactions:		
Net transfer from general revenues	38,913,565	42,325,001
Net cash provided	$ 740,497	$ 6,802,677
Cash, beginning of year	$ 23,682,721	$ 16,880,044
Cash, end of year	$ 24,423,218	$ 23,682,721

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

NOTE 1

Authority

The Legislative Assembly Office (the "Office") is operated under the authority of the *Legislative Assembly Act*. Annual operating budgets are approved by the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services.

NOTE 2

Purpose

Within the traditions of parliamentary democracy as constitutionally established in Alberta, the Legislative Assembly Office will

1. Support the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in carrying out the duties of office.
2. Support Members by providing services, advice, information and infrastructure required to carry out their roles as elected representatives.
3. Record the proceedings and maintain and preserve the records of the Legislative Assembly.
4. Inform and educate the public on behalf of Members and the institution of Parliament.
5. Provide a positive, productive, healthy and secure environment for Members and staff of the Assembly.
6. Support the Assembly in protecting its institutions and privileges.
7. Support the exchange of ideas/information among Parliaments.
8. Build partnerships with external clients in support of the institution of Parliament.

NOTE 3

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles:

a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Legislative Assembly Office, for which the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is responsible.

The Office operates within the General Revenue Fund (the "Fund"). The Fund is administrated by the Minister of Finance. All receipts of the Office are deposited into the Fund and all disbursements made by the Office are paid from the Fund. The net transfer from the Fund is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements made.

b) Basis of Financial Reporting

REVENUES

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.

Expenses

Expenses represent the costs of resources consumed during the year on the Office's operations.

Valuation Adjustments

Valuation adjustments include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay and transition allowance. Furthermore, accommodation costs, provided by Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation at no cost, are included in valuation adjustments so as to show the entire cost of the operation of the Office.

Assets

Financial assets of the Office are limited to financial claims such as cash, advances to and accounts receivable from other organizations, employers and other individuals.

Inventory held for resale is reported at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

Capital assets of the Office are recorded at cost and amortized on a straight-line basis, over the estimated useful lives of the assets, invoiced at $2,500 or greater, as follows:

Computer hardware and software	2 years
Office equipment	5 years
Furniture	10 years

The Office follows government budgetary practices that allow funds from an operating budget to be used to purchase capital assets. These purchases are included in expenses on the statement of operations but are then removed from expenses through a valuation adjustment and are capitalized and amortized over their useful lives.

The fair value of cash and accounts receivable and advances are estimated to approximate their book values.

Liabilities

Liabilities include all financial claims payable by the Office at fiscal year end.

The Members' transition allowance is estimated based on Members' years of service and their most recent remuneration amounts. The annual charge is the amount that is estimated to have been earned by Members during the year.

The fair values of accounts payable and accrued liabilities, vacation pay and Members' transition allowance are estimated to approximate their book values.

Net Liabilities

Net liabilities represent the difference between the value of assets held by the Office and its liabilities.

Photo: The Legislative Assembly in action on Opening Day.

Capital Assets

	2007			2006
	COST	ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION	NET BOOK VALUE	NET BOOK VALUE
Office equipment	$ 341,454	$ 200,607	$ 140,847	$ 55,076
Furniture	2,467,593	1,033,869	1,433,724	1,380,881
Computer hardware and software	3,166,378	2,772,641	393,737	425,304
TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS	**$ 5,975,425**	**$ 4,007,117**	**$ 1,968,308**	**$ 1,861,261**

NOTE 5

Contribution from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation

Included in the $748,593 (2006 - $875,312) contribution from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation is: $15,000 for renovations to the Legislature Committee Room A to increase capacity; and $20,000 to fund a costing/functional study for the north-south pedway for potential redevelopment.

NOTE 6

Members' Transition Allowance

The Office implemented a Members' transition allowance on October 1, 1998. The provisions of the allowance were established in accordance with the Members' Allowances Order (RMSC 1992, c. M-1, as amended, Section 9.)

A transition allowance is paid to every Member at the time of dissolution of the Legislature unless they are re-elected in the next election. Members who resign their seats are also eligible for the allowance.

Under section 9, the amount paid for service commencing on or after March 20, 1989, is determined by multiplying three months' salary, based on the average monthly salary for the three calendar years in which the person received their highest salary, by the number of years the person served as a Member on or after March 20, 1989. "Salary" is defined in section 9(1). For service periods prior to March 20, 1989, the allowance is calculated by multiplying the highest rate of a Member's monthly indemnity and expense allowances for one month for every year of service prior to March 20, 1989 with no restrictions. There is no credit for years of service for which the Member has previously received a payment under Section 9 or the predecessor section. Eligible recipients may elect to be paid the allowance over a period of up to four years.

In the event of death of an active Member, a transition allowance equivalent to the amount owed at passing is paid to the Member's estate.

	2006 - 2007	2005 - 2006
Liability as at beginning of year	$ 16,850,158	$ 14,688,634
Total transition allowance payments	(1,462,523)	(663,705)
Total transition allowance expense	3,181,342	2,825,229
LIABILITY AT END OF YEAR	**$ 18,568,977**	**$ 16,850,158**
Voted expense	$ 4,200,000	$ 4,200,000
Valuation adjustment	(1,018,658)	(1,374,771)
TOTAL TRANSITION ALLOWANCE EXPENSE	**$ 3,181,342**	**$ 2,825,229**

»

NOTE 7

Defined Benefit Plans

The Office participates in the following multi-employer pension plans: Management Employees Pension Plan and Public Service Pension Plan. The Office also participates in the multi-employer Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of $910,620 for the year ending March 31, 2007 (2006 - $725,309).

At December 31, 2006, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $6,765,000 (2005 – $165,895,000) and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a surplus of $153,024,000 (2005 – deficiency of $187,704,000). At December 31, 2006, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had a surplus of $3,698,000 (2005- $10,018,000).

The Office also participates in a multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plan. At March 31, 2007, the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan reported an actuarial surplus of $10,148,000 (2006- $8,309,000). The expense for this plan is limited to employer's annual contributions for the year.

NOTE 8

Budget

EXPENSES:

2006-2007 budget(a)	$ 45,936,000
2006-2007 actual expenses (excluding valuation adjustments)	$ 41,941,865
2006-2007 unexpended (excluding valuation adjustments)	$ 3,994,135

(a) 2006-07 Offices of the Legislative Assembly Estimates presented March 22, 2006.

NOTE 9

Approval of Financial Statements

These financial statements were approved by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

SCHEDULE 1

Expenses Detailed by Object

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

	2007		2006
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
EXPENSES:			
Salaries, wages and employer contributions	$ 18,422,000	$ 16,271,284	$ 14,744,101
Supplies and services	13,201,000	12,061,096	12,514,230
Grants	7,000	5,450	450
Payments to MLAs and Executive Council	14,306,000	13,604,035	12,997,030
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 45,936,000**	**$ 41,941,865**	**$ 40,255,811**

»

Salary and Benefits Disclosure

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

	2007				2006
	Base Salary[1]	Other Cash Benefits[2]	Other Non-cash Benefits[3]	Total	Total
SENIOR OFFICIAL					
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly[4]	$ 187,380	$ 14,629	$ 40,331	$ 242,340	$ 224,159
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM					
Senior Parliamentary Counsel	131,532	10,419	33,310	175,261	163,640
Director, Information Technology and Human Resource Services	128,496	15,034	30,874	174,404	161,975
Senior Parliamentary Counsel	123,888	9,342	32,406	165,636	155,070
Clerk Assistant and Director of House Services	105,492	8,466	26,052	140,010	130,773
Legislature Librarian	97,908	15,265	24,519	137,692	128,943
Director of Visitor, Ceremonial & Security Services and Sergeant-at-Arms	97,788	11,062	24,998	133,848	125,620
Director of Financial Management and Administrative Services and Senior Financial Officer	99,408	7,497	25,326	132,231	123,621
Senior Financial Officer [5]	-	-	-	-	731
Manager Subtotal	784,512	77,085	197,485	1,059,082	990,373
	$ 971,982	$ 91,714	$ 237,816	$ 1,301,422	$ 1,214,532

(1) Base salary includes regular base pay.
(2) Other cash benefits include bonuses, vacation payouts and reimbursement for Learning and Wellness Accounts.
(3) Other non-cash benefits include the Legislative Assembly Office's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short- and long-term disability plans, WCB premiums, professional memberships and tuition fees.
(4) Automobile is provided; no dollar amount included in benefits and allowances figures.
(5) Position vacated October 2004.

Photo: The official portraits of Alberta's former Premiers grace the third floor of the Legislature Building. Former Premier Ralph Klein's portrait was officially unveiled on August 30.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

ALBERTA BRANCH

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Speaker Ken Kowalski, President of the Alberta Branch of the CPA

Every year I am thankful for the opportunity to attend a variety of parliamentary conferences with my fellow MLAs. Even after over 25 years as a Member of the Legislative Assembly I continue to learn and grow from interparliamentary experiences. In fact, I was humbly inspired by a comment made by one of my fellow legislators at the 45th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Canadian Regional Conference. He said, *"What binds us together are the values we share and our belief in democracy. We are united in our view that the only force that should be involved in achieving office should be the force of our arguments, and democracy is the best tool yet invented to unleash the talents of any country."* Those are the profound words of the Rt. Hon. Greg Knight, representative for the U.K. branch of the CPA. Those values lie at the heart of our democratic parliamentary system, and as legislators it is our responsibility to ensure that those simple values are upheld and reflected in our every word and deed.

The conference featured eight business sessions covering a variety of topics. Topics that stood out in my mind dealt with youth voters and political apathy as well as reconciling free speech and fair trials.

Engaging youth in the democratic process has always been a topic of great interest to me. Through various programs and educational initiatives such as School at the Legislature for Grade 6 students and Mr. Speaker's MLA for a Day for Grade 10 students the Legislative Assembly of Alberta makes engaging Alberta's youth a priority and attempts to plant the seeds for active citizenship and lifelong involvement.

The other session of great interest to me was Reconciling Free Speech and Fair Trials: What to Do When a Matter Is Before the Courts, presented by Graham Steele of Halifax and chaired by none other than Alberta MLA Mary Anne Jablonski. In his presentation Mr. Steele touched on the importance of not allowing the fact that a matter is before the courts to prevent legislators from discussing critical issues of interest to our constituents.

On another note, at the Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar held in Haines Junction, Yukon, from September 7 to 9, Rob Lougheed presented on initiatives relating to disability issues in the province of Alberta. The presentation examined the progress of disability issues across Canada, including physical access, housing, transportation and employment. With an aging population and less active lifestyles, current issues relating to disability will only become more prevalent and more urgent in the future. Applying a proactive approach to emerging constituent concerns today will hopefully allow legislators to iron out issues before they become urgent.

As always the conferences attended by MLAs in 2007 afforded boundless opportunities to learn from and network with other elected officials from across Canada and around the globe. Interparliamentary relations afford legislators the opportunity to evaluate issues on a larger scale and to learn from the experience of other jurisdictions.

Photo: Speaker Kowalski at the podium during Eid-Al-Adha ceremony.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is an association of members of Commonwealth parliaments who, irrespective of race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of democracy. Canada was one of the six original member countries of the CPA when it was formed in 1911 under the name of the Empire Parliamentary Association. Each provincial and territorial Legislative Assembly in Canada as well as the federal Parliament comprises a branch of the CPA. All Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta are members of the Alberta branch of the CPA. "As always the conferences attended by MLAs in 2007 afforded boundless opportunities to learn from and network with other elected officials from across Canada and around the globe. Interparliamentary relations afford legislators the opportunity to evaluate issues on a larger scale and to learn from the experience of other jurisdictions."

Speaker Ken Kowalski,
President of the Alberta Branch of the CPA

SECRETARY'S REPORT

W.J. David McNeil, Secretary of the Alberta Branch of the CPA and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

In my role as Clerk I assist with the co-ordination of Member participation in interparliamentary activities. In 2007 Members attended a variety of conferences within Canada and throughout the world, some as far away as New Delhi, India, and others in our own backyard.

An energy symposium for the National Conference of State Legislatures was hosted by Speaker Kowalski in Edmonton from October 16 to 18 and attracted a number of senators and representatives from across the United States. The three-day event included a tour of the Oil Sands Discovery Centre in Fort McMurray, a panel discussion on labour force issues and presentations covering everything from environmental and regional issues of oil sands development to alternative renewable and nonrenewable energy development. My staff and I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to assist with this conference.

On another note, the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference, held in New Dehli from September 21 to 30, offered an incredible program filled with informative sessions and a wealth of culture and history.

The conference agenda featured an address by the Commonwealth Secretary-General and the Secretary-General of the CPA followed by the meeting of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table. Founded in 1932 by Owen Clough, former Clerk of the Senate of South Africa, the object of the society is to provide a means by which parliamentary officials share knowledge of the practices and procedures of the various legislatures of the Commonwealth.

Debate topics covered:

1. Freedom of Speech and Citizens' Right of Reply: Parliamentary Privilege Versus Accountability
2. 50 Years at the Table – The Art of Briefing a Speaker
3. Information Management
4. Corporate Bodies: Their Structure, Accountability and Effectiveness
5. Managing Bills in the Australian Parliament.
6. Public Participation: A South African Case Study
7. Financing Legislatures
8. Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme – Origin, Evolution and Functioning

I was honoured to present on behalf of our region and share information on recent procedural changes within the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

BURSARIES

Bursaries are presented annually to nominees from TUXIS Parliament of Alberta and the Alberta Girls' Parliament to increase interest in the parliamentary process among young Albertans. On May 30 Speaker Ken Kowalski awarded bursaries to Annette Kelm of Medicine Hat from TUXIS Parliament of Alberta and to Amanda Garrow of Calgary-Foothills and Rebecca Bootsman of Edmonton-Centre from the Alberta Girls' Parliament.

GRADE 6 ESSAY

A province-wide essay contest is held annually for Grade 6 students to encourage greater awareness of the Commonwealth and the parliamentary system. This year Allyson Kupchenko of Strathcona won first place, with Megan Connors of Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview and Emma Maria Van Loon of Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock finishing second and third respectively.

»

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

ALBERTA BRANCH

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Abbott, Tony
Drayton Valley-Calmar (PC)

Ady, Hon. Cindy
Calgary-Shaw (PC)
Associate Minister of Tourism Promotion (from June 27, 2007)

Agnihotri, Bharat
Edmonton-Ellerslie (L)

Amery, Moe
Calgary-East (PC)

Backs, Dan
Edmonton-Manning (Ind)

Blakeman, Laurie
Edmonton-Centre (L)
Official Opposition House Leader

Bonko, Bill
Edmonton-Decore (L)

Boutilier, Hon. Guy C.
Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo (PC)
Minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations

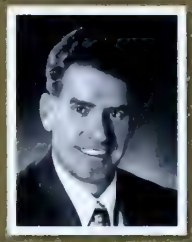
Brown, Dr. Neil, QC
Calgary-Nose Hill (PC)

Calahasen, Pearl
Lesser Slave Lake (PC)

Cao, Wayne C.N.
Calgary-Fort (PC)

Cardinal, Mike
Athabasca-Redwater (PC)

Cenaiko, Harvey
Calgary-Buffalo (PC)



Chase, Harry B.
Calgary-Varsity (L)

Cheffins, Craig
Calgary-Elbow (L)
(from July 17, 2007)

Coutts, David
Livingstone-Macleod (PC)

Danyluk, Hon. Ray
Lac La Biche-St. Paul (PC)
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

DeLong, Alana
Calgary-Bow (PC)

Doerksen, Victor P.
Red Deer-South (PC)

Ducharme, Denis
Bonnyville-Cold Lake (PC)

Dunford, Clint
Lethbridge-West (PC)

Eggen, David
Edmonton-Calder (NDP)
NDP Opposition Whip

Elsalhy, Mo
Edmonton-McClung (L)

Evans, Hon. Iris
Sherwood Park (PC)
Minister of Employment, Immigration and Industry

Flaherty, Jack
St. Albert (L)

Forsyth, Heather
Calgary-Fish Creek (PC)

Fritz, Hon. Yvonne
Calgary-Cross (PC)
Associate Minister of Affordable Housing and Urban Development
(from June 27, 2007)

Goudreau, Hon. Hector G.
Dunvegan-Central Peace (PC)
Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture

Graydon, Gord
Grande Prairie-Wapiti (PC)

Griffiths, Doug
Battle River-Wainwright (PC)

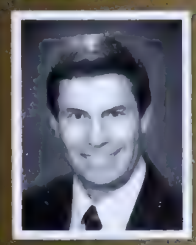
Groeneveld, Hon. George
Highwood (PC)
Minister of Agriculture and Food

Haley, Carol
Airdrie-Chestermere (PC)

Hancock, Hon. Dave, QC
Edmonton-Whitemud (PC)
Minister of Health and Wellness
Government House Leader

Hayden, Jack,
Drumheller-Stettler (PC)
(from July 17, 2007)

Herard, Denis
Calgary-Egmont (PC)



Hinman, Paul
Cardston-Taber-Warner
(AA)

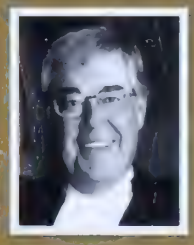
Horner, Hon. Doug
Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert (PC)
Minister of Advanced Education and Technology

Jablonski, Mary Anne
Red Deer-North (PC)

Johnson, LeRoy
Wetaskiwin-Camrose (PC)

Johnston, Art
Calgary-Hays (PC)

Knight, Hon. Mel,
Grande Prairie-Smoky (PC)
Minister of Energy



Kowalski, Hon. Kenneth R.
Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock (PC)
Speaker

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

ALBERTA BRANCH

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Liepert, Hon. Ron,
Calgary-West (PC)
Minister of Education

Lindsay, Hon. Fred,
Stony Plain (PC)
Solicitor General and
Minister of Public Security

Lougheed, Rob
Strathcona (PC)

Lukaszuk, Thomas A.
Edmonton-Castle Downs (PC)

Lund, Ty
Rocky Mountain House (PC)

MacDonald, Hugh
Edmonton-Gold Bar (L)

Magnus, Richard
Calgary-North Hill (PC)

Mar, Gary G., QC
Calgary-Mackay (PC)
(to December 2, 2007)

Martin, Ray
Edmonton-Beverly-
Clareview (NDP)
NDP Opposition House
Leader

Marz, Richard
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills (PC)
Deputy Speaker and Chair of
Committees

Mason, Brian
Edmonton-Highlands-
Norwood (NDP)
Leader of the NDP
Opposition

Mather, Weslyn
Edmonton-Mill Woods (L)

McClellan, Shirley
Drumheller-Stettler (PC)
(to January 15, 2007)

McFarland, Barry
Little Bow (PC)

Melchin, Hon. Greg,
Calgary-North West (PC
Minister of Seniors and
Community Supports

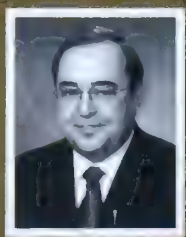
Miller, Dr. Bruce
Edmonton-Glenora (L)
Deputy Official Opposition
Whip

Miller, Rick
Edmonton-Rutherford (L)
Official Opposition Whip

Mitzel, Len
Cypress-Medicine Hat (PC)

Morton, Hon. F.L.
Foothills-Rocky View (PC)
Minister of Sustainable
Resource Development

Oberg, Hon. Lyle
Strathmore-Brooks (PC)
Minister of Finance



Oberle, Frank
Peace River (PC)
Government Whip

Ouellette, Hon. Luke
Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (PC)
Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation

Pannu, Dr. Raj
Edmonton-Strathcona (NDP)

Pastoor, Bridget Brennan
Lethbridge-East (L)

Pham, Hung Kim
Calgary-Montrose (PC)

Prins, Ray
Lacombe-Ponoka (PC)

Renner, Hon. Rob
Medicine Hat (PC)
Minister of Environment
Deputy Government House Leader

Rodney, Dave
Calgary-Lougheed (PC)

Rogers, George
Leduc-Beaumont-Devon (PC)

Shariff, Shiraz
Calgary-McCall (PC)
Deputy Chair of Committees

Snelgrove, Hon. Lloyd
Vermilion-Lloydminster (PC
President of the Treasury Board
Minister of Service Alberta

Stelmach, Hon. Ed
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville (PC)
Premier, President of Executive Council

Stevens, Hon. Ron, QC
Calgary-Glenmore (PC)
Deputy Premier (from June 27, 2007)
Deputy Government House Leader (to November 5, 2007)
Minister of Justice and Attorney General

Strang, Ivan
West Yellowhead (PC)

Swann, Dr. David
Calgary-Mountain View (L)

Taft, Dr. Kevin
Edmonton-Riverview (L)
Leader of the Official Opposition

Tarchuk, Hon. Janis
Banff-Cochrane (PC)
Minister of Children's Services

Taylor, Dave
Calgary-Currie (L)
Deputy Leader of the Official Opposition

Tougas, Maurice
Edmonton-Meadowlark (L)

VanderBurg, George
Whitecourt-Ste. Anne (PC)

Webber, Len
Calgary-Foothills (PC)
Deputy Government Whip

Zwozdesky, Hon. Gene
Edmonton-Mill Creek (PC)
Associate Minister for Capital Planning (from June 27, 2007), Deputy Government House Leader (from November 5, 2007)

Conferences

CANADIAN REGIONAL PRESIDING OFFICERS CONFERENCE

Charlottetown, PEI
January 18 to 21, 2007

DELEGATES

Richard Marz – MLA
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

Shiraz Shariff – MLA
Calgary-McCall

Dr. David McNeil – Clerk

AGENDA

- Opening remarks by Hon. Greg Deighan, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island
- Presentation of Alberta's online virtual visit, Step Inside the Alberta Legislature, by Dr. David McNeil
- Language rights in the Northwest Territories, presented by Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk, NWT
- The Michaud Affair, presented by Diane Leblanc, MNA, Deputy Speaker; Francois Gendron, MNA, Deputy Speaker; Michel Bonsaint, Director General of Parliamentary Affairs, Quebec
- Roundtable discussion on decorum in the Chamber led by Hon. Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons
- Effectiveness in Legislatures: Getting the Message Out – presented by Dr. David Docherty, *Author of Legislatures*
- Comment, question and answer session on Dr. Docherty's presentation

PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION (PNWER)

Anchorage, Alaska
July 22 to 26, 2007

DELEGATES

David Coutts – MLA
Livingstone-MacLeod

Hon. Rob Renner – MLA
Medicine Hat

Hon. Cindy Ady – MLA
Calgary-Shaw

Clint Dunford – MLA
Lethbridge-West

LeRoy Johnson – MLA
Wetaskiwin-Camrose

Richard Marz – MLA
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

Barry McFarland – MLA
Little Bow

Bruce Miller – MLA
Edmonton-Glenora

Len Mitzel – MLA
Cypress-Medicine Hat

Dr. David Swann – MLA
Calgary-Mountain View

AGENDA

July 21

- Registration and Reception

July 22

- PNWER Executive Meeting

July 23

- Energy 1
- Border Issues
- Sustainable Development
- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Sustainable Development and Natural
- Resource Management

July 24

- Workforce Development
- Homeland Security
- Trade and Economic Development
- Energy 11
- Policy Tour, Elmendorf Air Force Base
- Transportation
- Water Policy

July 25

- Environment
- High Technology
- Healthcare
- Ocean and River Energy
- Telecommunications
- Policy Tour, Port of Anchorage Site

July 26

- Prudhoe Bay Policy Tour

PNWER Legislative Academy

September 28-October 1, 2007
Banff Alberta

DELEGATES

Hon. Cindy Ady – MLA
Calgary-Shaw

David Coutts – MLA
Livingstone-MacLeod

Len Mitzel – MLA
Cypress-Medicine Hat

Shiraz Shariff- MLA
Calgary-McCall

David Eggen – MLA
Edmonton-Glenora

AGENDA

- Welcome reception with Hon. Guy Boutilier, Alberta Minister of International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations

September 29

- Roundtable introductions and discussions

September 30

- How Does Washington DC Work?
- How Does the Canadian Federal System Work?
- Facilitated discussion of State/Province/ Federal roles in the context of Real Issues of Consequence to the region

October 1

- What Can an Organization Like PNWER Do To Solve Cross Border Issues?
- Resolving Tough Cross Border Issues
- Roundtable discussions with both Canadian and US Legislators

»

- Setting the Stage for Future Co-Operation

CANADIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE CPA

Winnipeg, Manitoba
July 23 to 29, 2007

DELEGATES

Hon. Ken Kowalski – Speaker

Mary Anne Jablonski – MLA
Red Deer-North

Art Johnston – MLA
Calgary-Hays

George VanderBurg – MLA
Whitecourt-Ste. Anne

Moe Amery – MLA
Calgary-East

Susan Purdie – Special Assistant to the Speaker

AGENDA

- Dealing with the Media
- The Reporting Relationship between the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and Its Independent Officers
- Crossing the Floor
- Reconciling Free Speech and Fair Trials: What To Do When a Matter Is Before the Courts
- The Creation of a Special Research Chair on Parliamentary Government and Democracy
- Seeing Beyond the Political Horizon: Standards of Care in the Inner City
- Women and Politics
- Youth Voter and Political Apathy

Report by George VanderBurg

The conference was a great opportunity to learn from and network with other elected officials from across Canada. Topics of interest to me were discussions on drugs, crime and engaging youth in the political process. I hope to discuss some of these with my colleagues so that we retain the vibrancy of Alberta's democracy for generations to come.

I was also able to gain insight into the political systems of Canada's territories.

Report by Moe Amery

This conference was a great gathering where legislators from coast to coast discussed issues pertaining to their jurisdictions. Issues such as women's participation in politics, youth participation, the territorial way of consensus-based government and the B.C. strategy to combat crime and drugs were of particular interest to me.

50th CANADIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Ottawa
July 27, 2007

DELEGATES

Hon. Ken Kowalski, Speaker

Dr. David McNeil, Clerk

Susan Purdie, Special Assistant to the Speaker

AGENDA

- Adoption of draft agenda and approval of the minutes from the July 13, 2006 meeting
- Financial matters
- Regional representative and stand-by branch 2007-08
- Rotation of the Chair of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Canadian Region Steering Committee
- Report – Women parliamentarians send letter expressing interest
- Regional Executive Committee 2007-08
- Canadian Parliamentary Review
- Delegation Secretaries – 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
- Regional conference sites
- Parliamentary seminar sites
- Conference of Presiding Officer sites
- Verbal report on the Executive Committee mid-year meeting in Cyprus
- 20th Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar 2008 Canadian branch
- Date of next Regional Council Meeting (2008)
- Other Business – 53rd CPA Conference (Rod MacArthur and John Quirke)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES

Boston, Massachusetts
August 5 to 9, 2007

DELEGATES

Harvey Cenaiko – MLA
Calgary-Buffalo

Gordon Graydon – MLA
Grande Prairie-Wapiti

Dave Rodney – MLA
Calgary-Lougheed

Bev Alenius – Executive Assistant to the Speaker

AGENDA

- A look at Legislative Immunity

Legislative Effectiveness Committee:
- Taking the Pulse of the New Legislature

Legislators' Professional Path/Staff Training Track: Ethical Responsibilities for:
- Attorneys in the Legislative Arena
- College Bound: America's Great Challenge
- Legislative Effectiveness Committee: Strong Legislative Caucuses
- Session with David McCullough, America's most celebrated historical author
- Climate Change: A World View
- Managing Change & Transition
- New Ways to Communicate with Constituents
- Twelve Tips for a More Powerful Speech

»

- Dealing with Conflict
- The State Economic Outlook with David Wyss
- General Session with Nancy Pelosi – first woman in America to serve as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
- The Rise of the Task Force
- Patchwork Policy Package: Need for Federal Action on Energy
- Building a Workforce for the 21st Century
- The Art of Public Debate
- The Coming Crisis for U.S. Ports
- How Secure Are We?
- International Trade
- Separation of Powers
- The Benefits and Pitfalls of Privatization
- Transitioning from Campaigning to Governing
- General Session: The American Presidents with Andrew Card and David Gergen
- Federal Immigration Reform: What's In It for the States?
- Legislators' Professional Path: How To Run a Great Constituent Meeting or Adversity Training
- Legislators' Professional Path: Legislative Ethics
- Water, Water Everywhere and Not a Drop to Share
- Web Wise: Getting Kids Up to Speed

Report by Harvey Cenaiko

This is the second conference of this type that I have attended, and again it piqued my interest in legislative procedures and new (best practice) policy affecting not only North America but the world.

Report by Gordon Graydon

The conference was attended by numerous representatives from Legislatures in the United States and other countries around the world. A large number of the sessions dealt with issues that were relevant to Alberta. The conference was well organized, I found it to be educational and will be sharing the information with fellow MLAs.

Report by Dave Rodney

It is very important to attend events like this – if only to reassure ourselves that Alberta is on the right track and ahead of many jurisdictions in many respects. There were over 9,000 delegates from the United States and around the world sharing best legislative practices.

I especially enjoyed the session on Patchwork Policy Package: Need for Federal Action on Energy presented by MP Rob Merrifield. He offered a common sense approach concentrating on technology, industry and the individual.

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES (CCPAC)

Victoria, BC
August 19 to 21, 2007

DELEGATES

Hugh MacDonald – Chair, MLA
Edmonton-Gold Bar

Ray Prins – MLA
Lacombe-Ponoka

Denis Ducharme – MLA
Bonnyville-Cold Lake

Dr. Philip Massolin – Committee Research Co-ordinator

Corinne Dacyshyn – Committee Clerk

AGENDA

- Joint Business session one – John J. Kelly Forum – Comparing the Progress of Commonwealth Public Accounts Committees
- Joint Business session two – John J. Kelly Forum – The Vision for Public Accounts Committees 10 years Hence
- Joint Business session three – John J. Kelly Forum – Maximizing the Auditor General's relationship with the Public Accounts Committee: How CCPAC and CCOLA Work Together – International Delegates' Perspective
- International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) – Independence of Auditors General
- Joint Business session four – John J. Kelly Forum – International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)
- Joint Business session five – John J. Kelly Forum – Oversight Role of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption presented by John Williams, MP
- Business session six – Committee Activity Reports
- Business session seven – Review of CCPAC Constitution

Report by Hugh MacDonald

It was very interesting to attend the 2007 CCPAC conference in Victoria. I was honoured to participate as a panelist along with Sheila Fraser, Auditor General of Canada, to discuss the vision for Public Accounts Committees 10 years hence.

I found the conference very useful and would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to attend to do so.

CANADIAN REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR

Haines Junction, Yukon
September 6 to 9, 2007

DELEGATES

Ray Prins – MLA
Lacombe-Ponoka

George Rogers – MLA
Leduc-Beaumont-Devon

Rob Lougheed – MLA
Strathcona

AGENDA

- Kluane National Park – its History and Current Challenges
- Long-Service Awards for Political Staff

»

- Disability Issues – Presenting Challenges to the Provinces
- The Changing Role of the Rural MLA
- Financial Compensation for Elected Members: What's Fair? What's Acceptable? How Do We Get There?

Report by Ray Prins, George Rogers and Rob Lougheed

It was a great opportunity to meet with colleagues from across the country to discuss common issues and challenges. The discussions were informative and covered a number of areas, including a presentation on Kluane National Park, MLA recognition and compensation and the changing roles of the rural MLA. MLA Rob Lougheed did a presentation on initiatives relating to disability issues in the province of Alberta. The presentation examined the progress of disability issues across Canada, including physical access, housing, transportation and employment. Discussion also surrounded why disability issues do not receive a great deal of attention and why these issues will soon become more urgent.

The conference was held in a remote location adjacent to Kluane National Park. This afforded the opportunity to enjoy some of the most beautiful and pristine scenery that Canada has to offer. It also provided a view of the damage done by the spruce bark beetle, which is killing many spruce trees in that area. The spruce bark beetle may pose a threat to Alberta similar to the current mountain pine beetle invasion.

Overall, the CPA Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar was a very rewarding experience.

COUNCIL ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS LAWS (COGEL)

Victoria, British Columbia
September 16 to 19, 2007

DELEGATES

Wayne Cao – MLA
Calgary-Fort

Jack Flaherty – MLA
St. Albert

Raj Pannu – MLA
Edmonton-Strathcona

Dave Rodney – MLA
Calgary-Lougheed

AGENDA

- Electronic Filing Workshop
- Local Agency Roundtable
- Getting Beyond the "Form" in Reform: Assessing Actual Results
- Ethics Update
- Emerging Trends in Election Administration Technology: Are we Better Off than We Were Four Years Ago?
- How Much Do We Need to Know About Public Employees? How Thick-skinned Should They/We Have To Be?
- Public Financing: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
- A Framework for Enhancing Transparency and Accountability in Lobbying
- Canadian Accountability Act
- First Nations and the Regulatory Environment
- Dealing with the Difficult Requester
- Agency IT Systems Development
- Pay to Play: Contractors and Contributions
- Electronic Filing Update
- Training – Developing and Maintaining Public Education Programs
- Elements of Successful Consent/ Settlement Agreement
- Commissioners Roundtable: Leadership Challenges
- Political Party Funding in the United Kingdom
- Freedom of Information Legislation/ Litigation Update
- Campaign Finance Update: Litigation
- Leadership Development – Coaching
- COGEL and the International Anti-Corruption Community – What Can We Do for Each Other?
- Ethical Issues for the Government Attorney
- Elections Update: Current Trends and Litigation
- Lobby Update
- Bridging the Ethics Gap: From Codes to Compliance
- The Politics of Privacy: The Advocates, Activists, and Regulators
- Managing the Blogosphere
- Addressing Voter Turnout
- Trusting Your Gut: Drop, Settle or Prosecute
- Campaign Finance Update: Legislation
- On the Origin of Politically Active Organizations – Understanding the Various Species of Groups Gearing Up for the 2008 Election
- Performance Measurement Roundtable: Is Your Agency Getting It Done?
- Ethics Laws and Their Application to Government Contractors
- The Challenges and Benefits of Joint Federal/State/Local Efforts
- Freedom of Information Roundtable

PARTNERSHIP OF PARLIAMENTS

Germany
September 30 to October 12, 2007

DELEGATES

Len Webber – MLA
Calgary-Foothills

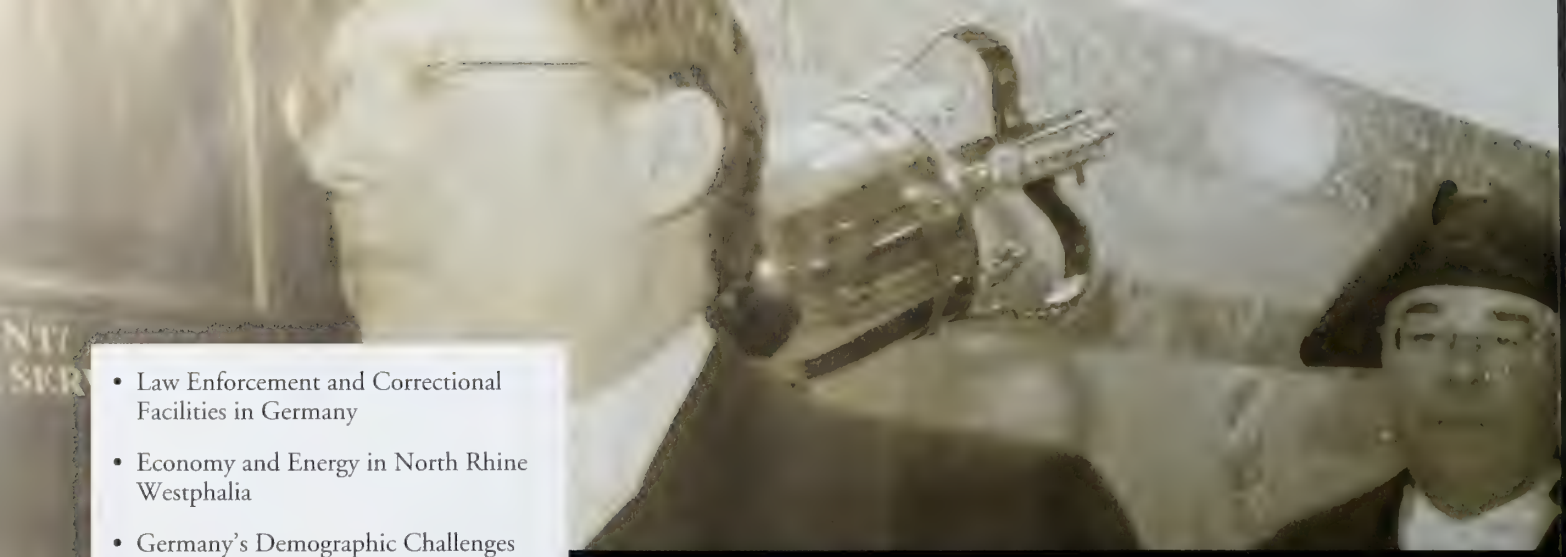
Richard Magnus – MLA
Calgary-North Hill

AGENDA

Presentations

- German Political System

»



- Law Enforcement and Correctional Facilities in Germany
- Economy and Energy in North Rhine Westphalia
- Germany's Demographic Challenges
- German Federalism and Its Discontent
- Current State of German-Canadian Relations

Tours

- Weiterstadt Correctional Institution – Hesse State
- North Rhine Westphalia Legislature
- Art Nouveau Museum and Heidelberg

Report by Len Webber

The Canadian delegation study tour included visits to the German Länder of Hesse, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saarland and Berlin. The German host delegation shared their pride of the diversity of its country and the opportunities that exist for its citizens in integration and globalization.

Several presentations were on encouraging social cohesion between the local population and the new immigrants of Germany. Emphasis was on business and education and improving the quality of sustainable support from the state. This is an area that the Alberta delegates have experienced with the huge social and economic growth in Alberta.

Historic and cultural tours were arranged for the delegates through the week.

This opportunity has been insightful and promotes co-operation and improving abilities to connect and share ideas. The tour was an extremely valuable experience and most helpful in becoming a better parliamentarian.

Interparliamentary Relations

The Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees, the Deputy Chair of Committees and staff of the Legislative Assembly Office are involved in ongoing liaison with Members and staff of other parliaments and with other representatives of foreign countries. In 2007 they hosted and/or met with the following visitors and events.

Mr. Xinjian Wu
Consul General of the People's Republic of China
January 17, 2007

His Excellency David Horton Wilkins
Ambassador of the United States of America
January 14, 2007 & October 10, 2007

Her Excellency Ingrid Maria Iremark
Ambassador of Sweden
February 26, 2007

His Excellency Dorian Ford Prince
Ambassador of the European Union
March 5, 2007

His Excellency Daniel Paul-Henry Jouanneau
Ambassador of France
March 6, 2007

Her Excellency Judith Mbula Bahemuka
High Commissioner for the Republic of Kenya
March 12, 2007

His Excellency Ihor Ostash
Ambassador of Ukraine
March 14, 2007

Mr. Georges Abou Zeid
First Secretary
Embassy of Lebanon
March 15, 2007

Photo: The Speaker's Procession heads to the Legislature Chamber.

Photo (Inset): Speaker Kowalski attended the Korean Veterans Association annual memorial ceremony on July 22.

His Excellency Pal Vastagh
Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary
March 21, 2007

Mr. Thembekile Mzantsi
Serjeant-at-Arms
Head of Safety and Security for the East Cape Provincial Legislature
March 22, 2007

Mr. Hasani Ngobeni
Serjeant-at-Arms
Limpopo Provincial Parliament
March 22, 2007

His Excellency Lu Shumin
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China
March 23, 2007

International Ombudsman Institute Delegation
March 29, 2007

His Excellency Duc Hung Nguyen
Ambassador
The Socialist Republic of Vietnam
April 2, 2007

His Excellency Smail Benamara
Ambassador
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
April 30, 2007

Pacific Northwest Economic Region Delegation

Ambassador David Horton Wilkins

Consul General Thomas Keith Huffaker

Hon. John van Dongen, British Columbia Minister of State, Intergovernmental Relations

Representative Glenn Anderson, Washington

Representative George Eskridge, Idaho

Representative Jeff Morris, Washington

Senator Kim Gillan, Montana

Matt Morrison, Executive Director, PNWER

Sukumar Periwal, Director, International Relations, British Columbia

Neil Windsor, Executive Director of APEGGA

May 7, 2007

Her Excellency Dr. Elena Stefoi
Ambassador
Romania
May 16, 2007

His Excellency Tsuneo Nishida
Ambassador
Japan
May 28, 2007

His Excellency Dr. Abraham Sokhaya Nkomo
High Commissioner
Republic of South Africa
May 30, 2007

His Excellency Jose S. Brillantes
Ambassador
Republic of the Philippines
May 31, 2007

His Excellency Jean L.A. Lint
Ambassador
Belgium
June 4, 2007

His Excellency Werner Baumann
Ambassador
Switzerland
June 6, 2007

Fellows of the International Canadian Studies Institute
Delegation
July 17, 2007

Her Excellency Ruby Violet Evadne Coye
High Commissioner
Jamaica
August 27, 2007

Her Excellency Kathleen Janet Lackey
High Commissioner
New Zealand
August 28, 2007

Hon. Graham Gunn
Member
South Australian Parliament
August 30, 2007

Mr. Tong-mo Suh
Consul General
Republic of Korea
November 7, 2007

Mr. Miguel Angel Martinez Espinosa
Secretary for Education
State of Jalisco
December 3, 2007

Mohd Hassan Bin Bal
Consul General
Malaysia
December 3, 2007

Mr. Luc Bernard Joseph Serot Almeras
Consul General of France

Dr. Thierry Lacaze
Honorary Consul of France
December 4, 2007

Photo: Nicole Stewart, winner of the Alberta-NWT Command of the Royal Canadian Legion intermediate poetry contest, read her poem during the Remembrance Service held in the Legislature Rotunda on November 18.

Former Members of the Legislative Assembly

OBITUARIES

Dr. Kenneth Paproski

January 17, 1931, to January 25, 2007

First elected in 1971, Dr. Paproski served as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party for the constituency of Edmonton-Kingsway until 1982.

During his term of office Dr. Paproski served on several committees, including Public Accounts; Law, Law Amendments and Regulations; Public Affairs, Agriculture and Education; Private Bills; Law and Regulations; Public Affairs; and Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing. In addition Dr. Paproski served on two legislative committees: Worker's Compensation Act and Professions and Occupations.

Mr. Arthur Dixon

December 1, 1919, to February 5, 2007

First elected in 1952, Mr. Dixon served as a member of the Social Credit caucus representing the constituencies of Calgary, Calgary South-East, Calgary-South and Calgary-Millican until 1975.

During his term of office Mr. Dixon served on several committees, including Agriculture, Colonization, Immigration and Education; Law Amendments; Municipal Law; Public Accounts; and Railways, Telephones and Irrigation.

Mr. Dixon served as Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly from 1955 to 1963 and as Speaker from 1963 to 1972. During Mr. Dixon's tenure as Speaker he served on the Standing Committee on Public Affairs, Agriculture and Education; the Special Committee to Arrange the Area Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association; the Special Committee to Revise Rules 74 to 104 of the Rules, Orders and Forms of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta; and the Select Special Ombudsman Search Committee.

Mr. Dallas Wilbur Schmidt

August 9, 1922, to November 22, 2007

First elected in 1975, Mr. Schmidt served as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party representing the constituency of Wetaskiwin-Leduc until 1982.

During his term of office Mr. Schmidt served as a cabinet Minister without Portfolio from April 3, 1975, to August 29, 1976; as Associate Minister for Energy and Natural Resources responsible for Public Lands from August 30, 1976, to March 22, 1979; and as Minister of Agriculture from March 23, 1979, to November 18, 1982.

Mr. Schmidt served on the following standing committees: Public Accounts; Law and Regulations; Public Affairs; and Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing.

Mr. Schmidt was a distinguished veteran of World War II, having served with the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1940 to 1945 and from 1951 to 1956. He was a recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, 1942, and the Bar of the Flying Cross, 1942.

Flags on the Legislature Grounds were flown at half-mast on the day of the funeral for each former Member.

Special Events 2007

January 11 – Eid Al-Adha

Speaker Kowalski hosted a ceremony recognizing Eid Al-Adha, or the Festival of Sacrifice, in the Rotunda on January 11. For Muslims around the world the festival marks the end of the annual pilgrimage, Hajj, to Mecca. Participants included Hon. Lloyd Snelgrove, President of Treasury Board on behalf of the government; Dr. Kevin Taft, Leader of the Official Opposition; Brian Mason, leader of the third-party opposition; Shiraz Shariff, MLA Calgary-McCall; Moe Amery, MLA Calgary-East; and Mo Elsalhy, MLA Edmonton-McClung. The Ismaili Council for Edmonton presented to the Edmonton Food Bank on behalf of Edmonton's Muslim community.

February 18 – Family Day

In co-operation with the Downtown Business Association the Legislative Assembly hosted over 4,000 visitors for free Family Day activities. Highlights of the day included a children's carnival, a magic show, wagon rides around the Legislature Grounds and ice sculptures. Other points of interest included the LEGOslature, a fun and spectacular model of the Legislature Building standing a metre tall and consisting of 120,000 Lego parts, and the Domestic Bliss art exhibit. Tours of the Legislature Building were offered every 10 minutes.

April 30 to May 1 – Mr. Speaker's MLA for a Day

From April 30 to May 1, 59 students from across Alberta attended the Mr. Speaker's MLA for a Day program, sponsored by the Alberta-NWT Command of the Royal Canadian Legion. The two-day event opened with a dinner hosted by the Legion followed by a mock Legislature debate and sessions with caucus representatives. The event closed with lunch hosted by Speaker Kowalski and face-to-face meetings with the students' respective Members.

Photo: Families gather on the Legislature Grounds to enjoy Canada Day festivities.

Photo: The Speaker's Cup golf tournament brings together MLAs to raise funds in support of local charities.

May 17 – Provincial Page Speech Competition

The 13th annual Provincial Page Speech Competition, sponsored by TransAlta, was held on May 17. Taddes Korris was awarded first place while Danielle Wiebe and Helena Zakrzewski finished second and third respectively. Judging the competition were Richard Marz, MLA, Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills; Vincent Tong, former page; and Willis Kachuk, the Co-ordinator of the Alberta Debate and Speech Association.

May 14 to 16 – Spring Constituency Employee Outreach Session

The spring constituency employee outreach session was held from May 14 to 16 in Red Deer. The close to 70 participants were offered emergency first aid training and Excel training. In addition to new information within FMAS and HRS, participants took in a presentation from Legal Aid Alberta, and an RCMP constable shared information regarding personal protection tips in our online world. The evening highlight was a guest speaker who shared her inspirational thoughts and message about setting and executing goals.

June 4 to 8 – Seniors' Tour and a Tea

The Legislative Assembly welcomed 156 seniors for tours of the Legislature Building from June 4 to 8 in celebration of Seniors' Week. The seniors were greeted by some Members of the Legislative Assembly and treated to complimentary refreshments in the lower Rotunda. A number of lucky seniors won draws for *The Centennial Series*, and all received coupons redeemable for a discount on items in the Legislative Assembly Gift Shop.

»

May 4 to 5 – Regional Historica Fair

Approximately 252 students in Grades 4 to 9 from Edmonton and area schools gathered in the Legislature pedway to showcase almost 200 exhibits based on Canadian heritage as part of the 12th annual Regional Historica Fair. Hon. Speaker Kowalski presented an award on behalf of the Legislative Assembly to the student who best represented a facet of Alberta's parliamentary history.

May 30 – *The Centennial Series* Book Launch

The official launch of *The Centennial Series* was hosted by Speaker Kowalski on May 30 in the Legislature Rotunda. Among the 200 guests were His Honour the Honourable Lieutenant Governor Norman L. Kwong, former Lieutenant Governor W. Helen Hunley, Premier Ed Stelmach, former Premier Donald R. Getty, former Speaker Gerard J. Amerongen, and former Speaker Dr. David J. Carter along with other current and former Members of the Legislative Assembly. In addition, current Chief Electoral Officer Lorne Gibson was in attendance along with former Chief Electoral Officer O. Brian Fjeldheim.

The four-volume set consists of *On Behalf of The Crown: Lieutenant Governors of the North-West Territories and Alberta, 1869-2005; The Mantle of Leadership: Premiers of the North-West Territories and Alberta, 1897-2005; A Higher Duty: Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of the North-West Territories and Alberta, 1888-2005;* and *A Century of Democracy: Elections of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, 1905-2005.*

Following the formal program, a book signing and reception were held in the Legislature Library. Over 4,200 sets of *The Centennial Series* were distributed to officials and parliamentary libraries throughout Canada and to junior and senior high schools, public libraries and seniors' facilities within Alberta.

June 5 – Book Launch for *Finding Roberta MacAdams: A Writer's Journey Into the Great War*

On June 4 Speaker Kowalski hosted a book launch in the Legislature Rotunda for *Finding Roberta MacAdams: A Writer's Journey Into the Great War.* The biographical novel about former Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta Roberta MacAdams was written by local author Debbie Marshall. Also participating in the ceremony was Hon. Fred Lindsay, Solicitor General and Minister of Public Security and MLA for Stony Plain. Roberta MacAdams was one of the first two women to serve as a Member of Parliament in the British Empire and to this day is the only woman representative ever elected by the armed services in the Commonwealth.

June 28 – Francophone Monument Unveiling

L'Empreinte Francophone (The French Imprint) was unveiled on the north Legislature Grounds on June 28, 2007, in a ceremony hosted by Speaker Kowalski. The monument was designed by Francophone artist Herman Poulin. The monument unites the Alberta wild rose and the Francophone fleur-de-lys as represented on the Franco-Albertan flag. The magnificent monument contains over 1,166 fingerprints of Francophones from across the province. The name L'Empreinte Francophone was suggested by Joseé St-Laurent, a student at École Héritage in Falher, AB. She won a province-wide contest held among Francophone schools throughout Alberta.

July 1 – Canada Day

On July 1 the floor of the Chamber was open to visitors for the 10th annual Canada Day at the Legislature festivities. Over 7,200 visitors to the building were greeted by Legislature guides and Pages. The Clerk of the Assembly, Sergeant-at-Arms and Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms welcomed them in the Chamber. The day's event attracted over 30,000 people to the north Legislature Grounds for musical entertainment and dancing, kids' and family activities, an agility dog show, the Healthy U Crew and the opening of the Princess Louise Caroline Alberta exhibit. Library Services welcomed 1,117 visitors to the Library on Canada Day.

»

Photo: A Legislature page presents former Speaker Dr. David Carter with a copy of *A Higher Duty: Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of the North-West Territories and Alberta, 1888-2005* during *The Centennial Series* unveiling on May 30.

July 22 – Korean Veterans Association Annual Memorial Ceremony

The Korean Veterans Association held their annual memorial ceremony recognizing the ceasefire on the Korean War at the Legislature Grounds on July 22. Speaker Kowalski laid a wreath on behalf of all Members at the Korean Cairn.

August 23 – Speaker's Cup

The 19th Annual Speaker's Cup was held at the Westlock Golf Club on Thursday, August 23.

The event was hosted by Speaker Kowalski and brought together 94 golfers and 41 guests and volunteers for dinner.

August 30 – Former Premier Ralph Klein's Portrait Unveiling

On August 30, 2007, a ceremony was held in the Rotunda of the Legislature Building to formally unveil former Premier Ralph Klein's portrait. His Honour the Honourable Norman L. Kwong, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta and Premier Stelmach also participated in the event hosted by Speaker Kowalski. In attendance were colleagues, friends and family. The portrait now hangs on the third floor of the Legislature Building.

September 30 – Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Day

The eighth annual provincial Police and Peace Officers' Memorial Day was held on September 30 on the south Legislature Grounds to recognize Alberta police and peace officers who have died in the line of duty. Deputy Speaker Richard Marz offered comments on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

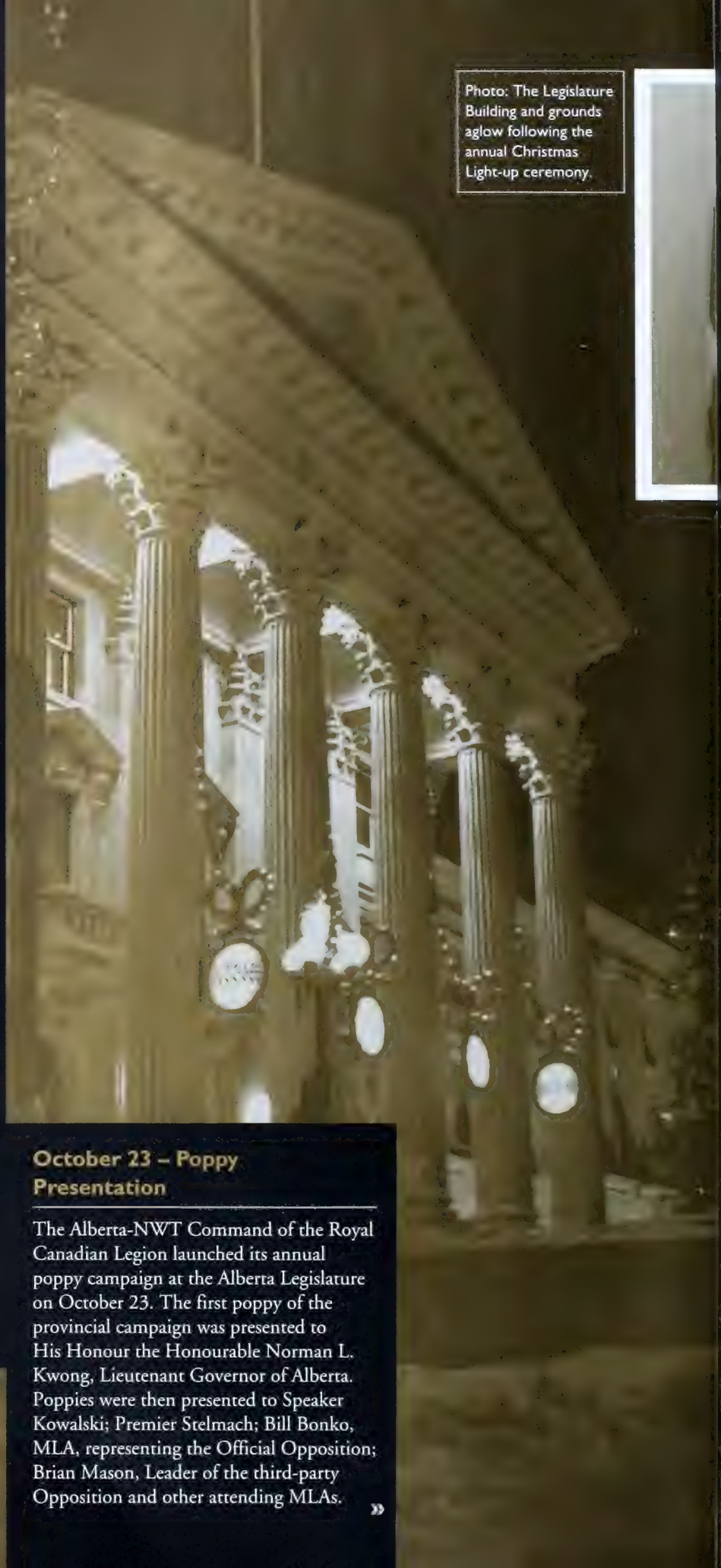


Photo: The Legislature Building and grounds aglow following the annual Christmas Light-up ceremony.

October 23 – Poppy Presentation

The Alberta-NWT Command of the Royal Canadian Legion launched its annual poppy campaign at the Alberta Legislature on October 23. The first poppy of the provincial campaign was presented to His Honour the Honourable Norman L. Kwong, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta. Poppies were then presented to Speaker Kowalski; Premier Stelmach; Bill Bonko, MLA, representing the Official Opposition; Brian Mason, Leader of the third-party Opposition and other attending MLAs. »

October 16 to 18 – NCSL/Alberta Energy Symposium

State legislators, led by Hon. Joe Hackney, North Carolina Speaker and President-elect for the National Conference of State Legislatures, NCSL, visited Edmonton and Fort McMurray from October 16 to 18 to attend the National Conference of State Legislatures/Alberta Energy Symposium. Senators, Representatives and delegates came to Alberta from North Dakota, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Wyoming, Kansas and Maryland to discuss and exchange thoughts relating to energy.

November 8 – Remembrance Service

On November 8 Speaker Kowalski along with Premier Stelmach; Laurie Blakeman, MLA Edmonton-Centre representing the Official Opposition; and Brian Mason, MLA, Leader of the third-party opposition participated in a Remembrance Service held in the Legislature Rotunda. Mike Cardinal, MLA, Athabasca-Redwater, with Ty Lund, MLA, Rocky Mountain House, and Pearl Calahasen, MLA, Lesser Slave Lake, laid a wreath on behalf of the Legislative Assembly. Also laying wreaths were representatives of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees and the youth of Alberta. The winner of the Alberta-NWT Command of the Royal Canadian Legion intermediate poetry contest, Nicole Stewart, read her poem during the ceremony. Nicole's poem placed second in the national competition. This ceremony was in memory of Albertans who gave their lives in the First World War and the Second World War, the Korean War and in United Nations and NATO operations.

Nicole Stewart was invited by Speaker Kowalski to join the procession and then read her poem to the Assembly. Her presence on the dais was one of the very few occassions in history when a "stranger" addressed the Assembly from the floor of the House.

Photo (Top): His Honour the Honourable Norman L. Kwong, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, during Opening Day ceremonies.

Photo (Bottom): Speaker Kowalski poses with Mr. Tong-Mo Suh, Consul General of the Republic of Korea.

November 14 – Unveiling of Beaver Pelt Mace Rest

Through the generosity of the Alberta Trappers Association the Assembly's Mace rest was re-covered in the finest Alberta beaver pelt dyed in our Chamber's green livery.

Featured on the pelt is an engraved silver lozenge which reads: "Presented to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta by the Alberta Trappers Association, November 2007." The unveiling of the Mace rest was held in the Legislature Chamber on November 14, 2007.

December 6 – Celebrate the Season at the Legislature

On December 6 Premier Stelmach and Speaker Kowalski launched the festive season at the Legislature by turning on the Christmas lights. Visitors that evening and throughout the month of December were offered hot chocolate and entertained by choirs in the Rotunda. The pedway displayed Christmas trees decorated with handmade ornaments crafted by Edmonton and area students. More than 21,817 people enjoyed the many activities at the Legislature in December.

»

December 6 – Winter Constituency Employee Seminar

The winter constituency employee seminar was held in Edmonton for 75 constituency staff. This seminar featured informative and engaging sessions from Parliamentary Counsel, VCSS, FMAS, Communications and the Library. Highlights of the seminar were an interactive meeting with the Speaker held in the Chamber and the sneak peek at the new OurHouse intranet site to be launched in the new year.

Mock Parliaments

Throughout the year the following youth parliament organizations visited the Legislature: the Alberta Girls' Parliament, March 29; the Parlement jeunesse de l'Alberta, May 4 to 6; Forum for Young Albertans, May 6 to 12; the Alberta Debate and Speech Association, November 16 to 17; the University of Alberta Debate Society, December 22; and TUXIS Parliament of Alberta, December 26 to 31. Some of the organizations used the Legislature Chamber for mock parliaments.

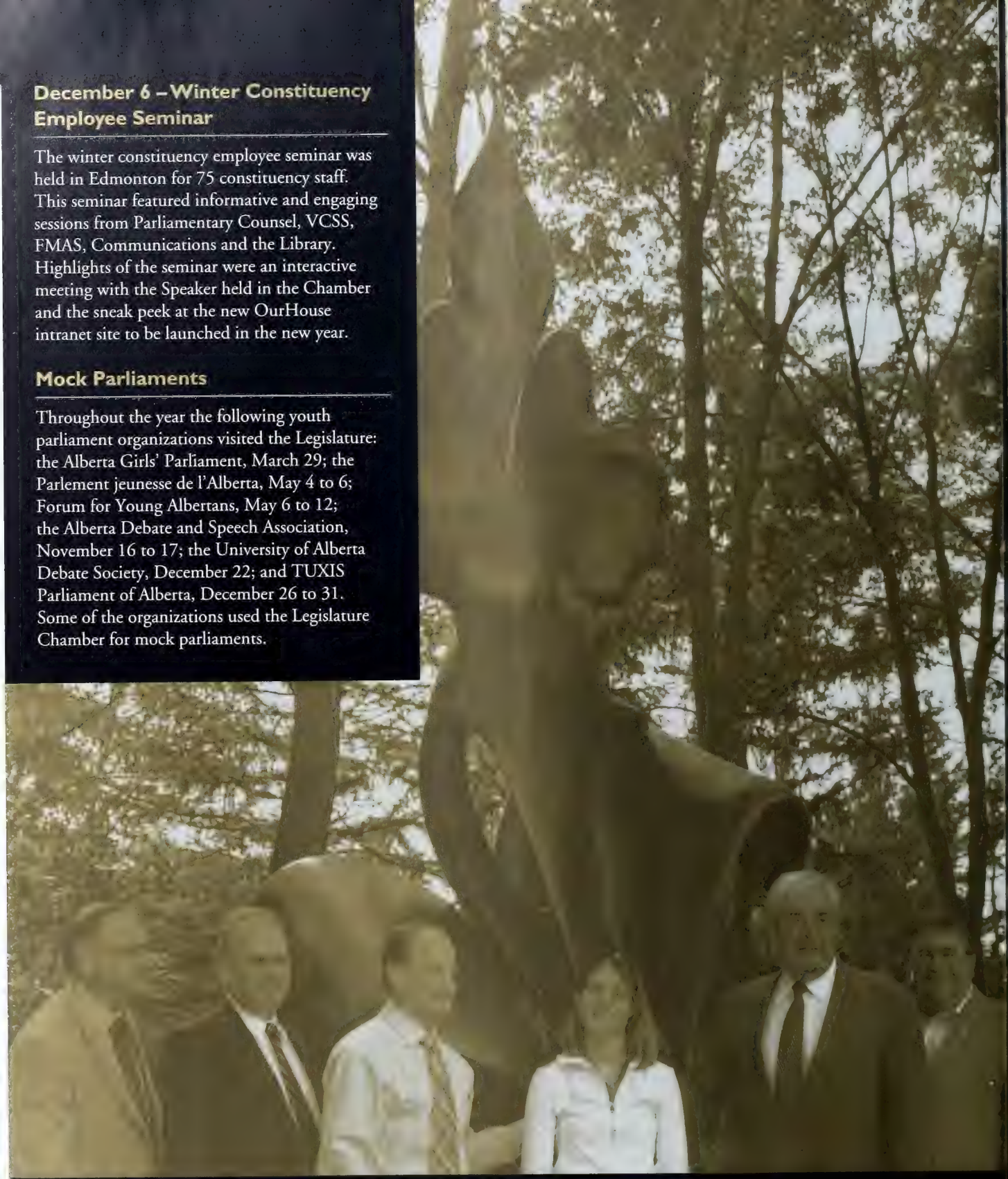


Photo: On June 28, L'Empreinte Francophone, the French Imprint, was unveiled in honour of Alberta's francophone community. Left to right: Hector Goudreau, MLA for Dunvegan-Central Peace, Jean Johnson, president of l'Association Canadienne-française de l'Alberta, Artist Herman Poulin, student Joseé St. Laurent, Speaker Kowalski and Denis Ducharme, MLA for Bonnyville-Cold Lake, pose in front of the monument.

Photo: Fountain in the Legislature pedway.

"WHAT BINDS US TOGETHER ARE THE VALUES WE SHARE AND OUR BELIEF IN DEMOCRACY. WE ARE UNITED IN OUR VIEW THAT THE ONLY FORCE THAT SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN ACHIEVING OFFICE SHOULD BE THE FORCE OF OUR ARGUMENTS, AND DEMOCRACY IS THE BEST TOOL YET INVENTED TO UNLEASH THE TALENTS OF ANY COUNTRY."

RT. HON. GREG KNIGHT, REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE U.K. BRANCH OF THE CPA

Photo (Left): The Speaker's Sprinters compete in the Wagon Races; just one of many events and initiatives to raise funds in support of the United Way.

Photo (Middle): The Sergeant-at-Arms with Legislature Pages on Canada Day.

Photo (Right): Mr. Craig Cheffins receives a pin from Speaker Kowalski following his swearing-in ceremony. Mr. Cheffins and Mr. Jack Hayden were sworn-in as Members following by-elections in the constituencies of Calgary-Elbow and Drumheller-Stettler.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

The Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) is a nonpartisan organization that provides support to the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Office of the Speaker

(780) 427-2464
325 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue, Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Office of the Clerk

Management Services

(780) 427-2478
801 Legislature Annex
9718-107 Street, Edmonton, AB
T5K 1E4

Communications Services

(780) 427-1653
801 Legislature Annex
9718-107 Street, Edmonton, AB
T5K 1E4

House Services

Clerk Assistant's Office

(780) 427-2480
801 Legislature Annex
9718-107 Street, Edmonton, AB
T5K 1E4

Journals/Table Research

(780) 422-3949
801 Legislature Annex
9718-107 Street, Edmonton, AB
T5K 1E4

Committees

(780) 427-2480
801 Legislature Annex
9718-107 Street, Edmonton, AB
T5K 1E4

Hansard

(780) 427-1875
1001 Legislature Annex
9718-107 Street, Edmonton, AB
T5K 1E4

Parliamentary Counsel

(780) 422-4837
801 Legislature Annex
9718-107 Street, Edmonton, AB
T5K 1E4

Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services

Sergeant-at-Arms

(780) 422-9259
412 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue, Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Visitor Services

(780) 427-7362
Pedway Mall, 10820-98 Avenue,
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2N6

Library Services

Reference Desk

(780) 427-2473
216 Legislature Building
10800-97 Avenue, Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

Library Support Services

(780) 427-3837
801 Legislature Annex
9718-107 Street, Edmonton, AB
T5K 1E4

Information Technology Services

(780) 422-1680
902 Legislature Annex
9718-107 Street, Edmonton, AB
T5K 1E4

Financial Management and Administrative Services

(780) 427-2477
901 Legislature Annex
9718-107 Street, Edmonton, AB
T5K 1E4

Human Resource Services

(780) 427-1364
901 Legislature Annex
9718-107 Street, Edmonton, AB
T5K 1E4

"EVERY YEAR I AM THANKFUL TO ATTEND A VARIETY OF PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCES WITH MY FELLOW MLAS. EVEN AFTER OVER 25 YEARS AS A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY I CONTINUE TO LEARN AND GROW FROM INTERPARLIAMENTARY EXPERIENCES."

THE HONOURABLE KEN KOWALSKI, MLA
SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA
Bibliothèque et Archives Canada
3 3286 54158692 7

PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA.

ISSN 0838-56602

INSIDE PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER WITH 25 PERCENT POSTCONSUMER CONTENT.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA